

# English Cluster 1-2

Mrs. Anne Armstrong

[www.learnstrong.co](http://www.learnstrong.co)

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Office Hours in Room 1101 Monday – Thursday; 7:00 – 7:25

## **Mission Statement:**

*To educate, engage, and empower all students to live ethically in an internationally-minded community. e3*

**Course Description** - English 1/2 Cluster uses the SpringBoard Curriculum developed by the College Board, with a focus on writing and analysis.

## **9th Grade at a Glance:**

Units of Study	Objective	Assessment	Readings*
Genre Studies	To understand the different types of genres, the elements of a short story and to write a short story using the elements of genres with purpose and structure.	Write a short story.	* <i>Daemon Hall</i> by Andrew Nance (Class Read aloud) * Various Short Stories * Various Non-Fiction Articles
Film Studies	To understand cinematic techniques, discover theme of a short film, and to write an analytical essay analyzing how a director uses cinematic techniques to develop a theme.	Write an analytical essay.	* <i>Labyrinth Lost</i> by Zoraida Cordova * Various Short Stories * Various Non-Fiction Articles
Poetry Unit	To understand literary techniques, theme, and create a poetry anthology with original work and an analysis.	Create a poetry notebook.	* <i>The Poet X</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo * Various Poems * Various Articles
Semester 2			
Novel Unit	To engage in a close reading of a novel, participating in quote analysis and discussions in order to write a literary analysis essay explaining how an author uses literary devices and elements to develop a theme.	Write a literary analysis.	* <i>All American Boys</i> by Jason Reynolds & Brandon Kiely * <i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas * <i>I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> by Erika L. Sanchez * To Be Announced
Argumentative ** indicates a possible change	To work with a team to create a museum exhibit where the students will prove that an individual should be inducted into a hall of fame.**	Create a museum exhibit.**	* To Be Announced

## **Course Texts:**

SpringBoard Consumable Textbook - to be picked up from the Library

McDougal Littell - Language of Literature 9th grade

## **Course Materials:**

All supplies a student must have to perform class assignments, homework, or projects are provided by the school at no cost to the students. There are some items, however, that are recommended but not required and include:

\* Pens - Black or Blue -

\* Pencils

\* Highlighters - 5 different colors (used to analyze poetry and literature)

## **Listening & Reading:**

As students journey through high school English they will be expected to read multiple novels and take assessments based upon listening to audio texts. In order to develop these skills, students will participate in listening to novels and independent reading.

1) Listening - 10 - 15 minutes of class time is set aside to listen to a novel, short story, and/or non-fiction texts.

2) Reading - Students are expected to have independent reading material with them every day. Your AVID teacher will give you more information about this. If you do not have access to books, I have many in my classroom and you are welcome to check them out.

## **Standards**

SpringBoard is aligned with the common core standards for the state of California.

## **Grades**

Work in this course will be assessed using a formal points system as well as informal observations and conferencing. Students will receive progress reports every 6 weeks. Detailed grade reports will be available through Powerschool. Please note that student work is often collected and scored at the end of a unit of study, so Powerschool is not always updated on a weekly basis.

Assignments	Points	Worth
In class work / tests	5-10	5%
Embedded Assessment	50-100	70%
Unit Packets	20-30	20%
Participation	5-10	5% and Citizenship Grade

## **Academic Support**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00-7:25, and after school by appointment.  
Office Hours will change during the spring sports season due to swim practice.

Tutoring: Tutoring is available during office hours and in the library after school

E-mail: Feel free to e-mail me with questions or concerns. Please allow up to 48 hours to reply to e-mails.

Web-Site: [www.learnstrong.co](http://www.learnstrong.co)

## **Communication:**

Each day I post what we did in class, homework assignments and other important classroom information on my website. Please take a moment to go to the site and look around. If you need to contact me, there is a form for to contact me along with a request for a conference. Preferred form of communication is via e-mail.

## **Classroom Expectations:**

- **Take responsibility for your own learning.** I am here to teach, help, and support you. You must be willing to learn, participate, and do the work to the best of your ability.
- **Tolerance.** Understand and recognize that other people have different values, beliefs, and appearances. I will not tolerate language or actions that exclude or demean.
- **Plagiarism.** If you plagiarize an assignment, you will receive a zero. If you plagiarize twice, you will receive a failing grade for the semester. If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask or check the handbook.
- **Class Attendance.** Attending class means being physically and mentally present—be involved! Be on time. Failure to do so will lead to dire circumstances, a drop in citizenship grade and /or a drop in academic grad

## **School Wide Expectations:**

- Expectations are listed in the Student Handbook.

## **Late Work**

- I do NOT accept late work for most assignments. Please communicate with me when you need extend time. I will work with you if you come to me for help.
- If you turn a major assignment in late, you will lose one grade for each class it is late. Later in the day or after school are both considered late.
- Drafts for essay assignments will not be accepted late. Beta Reading Groups, and rough drafts are important parts of the writing process. Beta Reading Drafts are worth 10 points, rough drafts are worth 20 points. Students earn full credit for complete drafts. If a draft is missing parts, or has been rushed at the last minute points will be deducted.
- I will accept requests for extensions if they are in writing (in a note or in e-mail) and come at least three days prior to an assignment's due date. The extension request should include the title of the assignment, reason for requesting the extension, and a proposed new due date. Use your student planner to help determine if you will need an extension on an assignment. Extension requests will be granted sparingly, and only if the reason for the request is viable. Approved extension requests should be stapled to the assignment when it is submitted.

## **Absences/Tardies**

You will only be able to make up work missed during an excused absence. If you are absent on a day a major assignment (e.g., the final draft of an essay we have been working on for several weeks) is due, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment on the due date via a parent, friend or e-mail UNLESS the absence is related to an emergency. If you are absent on a day of a test or quiz, it is YOUR responsibility to arrange a time to make up the missed test or quiz within one week of the absence. If a pattern of test avoidance emerges, a parent conference will be called. Consequences for multiple tardies will include lowering of citizenship grades and possible grade reduction. Be sure to look on [www.learnstrong.co](http://www.learnstrong.co) for what we did in class.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Policies and Permission Form

### STUDENTS

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-mail Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

I read and understand the classroom policies for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### PARENTS

Please read through the course syllabus, then check appropriate boxes and sign below. If you choose not to check all boxes, please indicate your concerns in the "Notes" field at the bottom of this page.

- I have read and understand the classroom policies for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English.
- I give my student permission to read the course texts for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced English.
- I give my student permission to watch "G," "PG," and "PG-13" and documentaries that relate to classwork.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail Address (please write legibly):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email or \_\_\_\_\_ Phone

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Notes to Mrs. Armstrong: \_\_\_\_\_  
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