

English Composition and Communication

Essential Understanding



Overview

This one-year course is designed for ninth and tenth grade students. It addresses the California state content standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking, and is intended to prepare students for the rigors of any four-year university English program. The thematic focus is *The Individual in Society* and will help you expand your vocabulary and emphasize the art of writing and speaking effectively and comprehensibly. This course will also provide you with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill the high school English requirement. You will develop your thinking-in-writing by practicing a variety of writing modes including description, narration, and literary analysis. You will read, discuss, analyze, interpret, debate, write and present orally on readings. Through the readings and in-class exercises, you will develop more sophisticated responses to literature, learning to create and support inferences about characters, moods, themes, etc.

African Poetry

African poetry encompasses the wide variety of traditions arising from Africa's diversity and from evolving trends within different literary genres. It is a large and complex subject, partly because of Africa's original linguistic diversity but primarily because of the devastating effect of slavery and colonization, which resulted in English, Portuguese and French, as well as Creole or pidgin versions of these European languages, being spoken and written by Africans across the continent.

***"If you don't understand yourself, you don't understand anybody else."
Nikki Giovanni, b. 6/7/1943 - present***

Guiding Question 1:

How do poets and writers' express themes of self and identity?

Lessons

- ___ How to annotate Poetry 11/4 – 11/5
- ___ Forms of African American Poetry 11/11 – 11/12
- ___ Forms of [African American and 18th Century] Layered Writing 11/18 – 11/19
(Virginia Woolf, Toni Morrison, Hannah Webster Foster)
- ___ Apprentice Poems 12/2 – 12/3
- ___ Figurative Language 12/9 – 12/10

Group work

___ **11/18-19/2019 Performing Arts Project** (The performing arts include music, dance, theatre arts (play or drama), and literature). Choose one poem from one of the various poems read in class and create a group performance piece using one of the following mediums:

Folk songs

Art songs

Street Arts

Theatrical Dances

Storytelling

Anthem

_____ **Write/Group/Share: Mondays/Tuesdays** ----- (annotate various poems)

While reading, annotate the text using the following marks:

Symbols

* This word or line is cool, it speaks to me

! This is something significant

? I don't get it: I don't understand this line or phrase

1. **Think:** think independently about the question that has been posed, forming ideas of their own.
2. **Group:** grouped in pairs to discuss your thoughts.
3. **Share:** pairs share your ideas with the whole class.

_____ **Read/Group/Share:** (using group evaluation handout)

Step 1: (Poet and reviewer work independently)

Step 2: THE CONFERENCE (Poet and reviewer come together)

Step 3: REVISE (Poet)

___ **11/14-15/2019** Submit apprentice poem with group evaluation handout 1

___ **11/21/2019-11/22/2019** Submit apprentice poem with group evaluation handout 2

Individual work

_____ **Socratic Seminars: Thursdays/Fridays** effectively articulating yourself, boosting those skills!

(using specific words/phrases from various poems)

_____ Preparing questions for and participating in a Socratic seminar (using various poems)

___ 11/7-8/2019 ___ 11/14-15/2019 ___ 11/21-22/2019 ___ 12/5-6/2019 ___ 12/12-13/2019

Socratic Rubric

Description	Preparedness	Participation	Synthesis/Takeaway	Self-Evaluation
<p>*Overarching theme of treating all contributions & classmates with respect & dignity:</p> <p>Grace & Courtesy</p>	<p>-Has carefully read & annotated article</p> <p>-Brings article/notes to the Seminar</p> <p>-Higher level questions are prepared & ready to share</p>	<p>-Refers to article & provides evidence to support opinion</p> <p>-Uses complete sentences & content-specific vocabulary</p> <p>-Builds on others' contributions by restating & paraphrasing</p>	<p>-Connects Socratic Seminar topic to class content/ lessons</p> <p>-Shares final thoughts using evidence from the article or a specific response to what a classmate shared</p>	<p>Exit Slip (class take away)</p> <p>-Includes thoughtful goals for next time</p> <p>-Turned in to the teacher before exiting classroom</p>
Points	/5	/5	/10	/10
				Total: /30

_____ **Anticipation Guide Worksheet**

_____ **Class Warm-ups:** Responses to class SAT/PSAT Questions (**beginning of every class**):
(Quarter 2 Writer's Warmups Responses)

_____ **Achieve 3000: After class warm-up**

(Annotating articles using various readings from Achieve 3000: should be completing **one activity weekly**).

_____ **Apprentice Poems** ----Choose two poems from the various poems read in class and create Apprentice Poems.

_____ **11/11-12/2019 Submit edited Apprentice Poem**

_____ **12/9-10/2019 Submit edited Apprentice Poem**

_____ **Spoken Word Workshop Assessment**

Assessment

_____ 12/16-17/2019 Final Assessment: ---- Spoken Word Poem

Write your own spoken word poem about yourself and identity:

Your poem should be at least **15 lines** and should consider the way the words sound (rhythm, alliteration, etc.)—remember that this is a spoken word poem; it is meant to be heard, not read.

Extensions

_____ 12/19-20/2019 ---- Spoken Word Poem

- Write your own spoken word poem about a time when someone misjudged you (physical appearance, your race or ethnicity, or some other superficial aspect such as where you live).
- Your poem should be at least 15 lines and should consider the way the words sound (rhythm, alliteration, etc.)—remember that this is a spoken word poem; it is meant to be heard, not read.

A quick word about appropriateness:

While we want these poems to be passionate, honest, and personal, we do not want to be hurtful. You may not include a personal attack on another individual or group; no shots at a peer you don't like. You may criticize a social problem or injustice without naming names.

Also, many spoken word poems out there today tend towards the vulgar and the profane. If you choose to use any profanity in your poem, make sure you can defend it as a necessary word choice.

_____ 12/21-22/2019 ---- Layered Writing

Layered writing is simply: writing in pieces. This type of writing allows space for interaction, sharing, collaboration, and contribution. Every unique layer makes the story continuously stronger and the core more engaging. Helpful hint: be careful not to allow your writing to become “episodic.” **Narrative writing:** minimum of three paragraphs long (*this is not creative, persuasive, nor expository*).

Readings

Poetry Websites:

<https://m.poemhunter.com/poems/africa/>

<http://www.waynevisser.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/i-am-an-african-5th.pdf>

<https://poets.org/poem/possum-crossing>

Layered Writing Website:

https://www.jstor.org/stable/26283461?read-now=1&seq=3#page_scan_tab_contents

Please create a free account and register, in order to access Jstor as a student.

Addendum: Detailed Class Policy

Expectations:

- Respect the classroom, others and yourself. Model GRACE and COURTESY.
- Be on time, prepared and in your designated seat at the start of class.
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on before talking.
- Listen attentively to others respectfully.
- No Candy, Drinks (with the exception of sealed container) or Gum is allowed.
- Electronics must be used appropriately and wisely.
- NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.
- No Headphones (Ask Teacher)

Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

November 1st: **NO SCHOOL** Staff Development Day

November 4th: Beginning of Quarter 2

November 11th: **NO SCHOOL** Veteran's Day

November 25th – 29th: **NO SCHOOL** Thanksgiving Break

December 23rd, 2019 – January 3rd, 2020: **NO SCHOOL** Winter Break

January 17th: End of 1st Semester

November 2019

Nº	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

December 2019

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					