

Pre-AP English 9 Course of Study

Philosophy:

Pre-AP English 9 is an elective course open to freshmen who have demonstrated proficiency and enthusiasm in English. The course is an intensive study of the facets of the English language. Students will prepare for Pre-AP English 10, AP English Language and Composition, and AP English Literature and Composition by practicing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Program Goal:

Pre-AP English 9 will provide opportunity for students to develop critical thinking skills, practice research strategies, and make and support assertions about literature. Additionally, the course will provide techniques for students to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes.

Program Objectives:

- A. The student will think critically.
 - B. The student will demonstrate understanding of research strategies.
 - C. The student will be aware of and monitor reading comprehension.
 - D. The student will express and support assertions about literature.
 - E. The student will demonstrate understanding of the conventions of the English language.
 - F. The student will produce organized pieces of writing using the writing process.
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Program Objective A.

The student will think critically.

Course Objectives:

1. Assess the adequacy, accuracy, and appropriateness of an author's details, identifying persuasive techniques and examples of propaganda, bias, and stereotyping
2. Examine elements of literature such as structure, diction, tone, and mood to determine the overall theme of the work
3. Develop questions about texts and writing that go beyond plot and characterization
4. Examine and discuss ways historical events have influenced the English language
5. Identify the features of rhetorical devices used in common types of public documents, including newspaper editorials and speeches

Program Objective B.

The student will demonstrate understanding of research strategies.

Course Objectives:

1. Compose open-ended questions for research and modify questions as necessary during inquiry and investigation to narrow the focus or extend the investigation
2. Identify appropriate sources and gather relevant information from multiple sources
3. Determine the accuracy of sources and the credibility of the author by analyzing the sources' validity
4. Compile and organize important information using source cards, note cards, and outlines
5. Select appropriate sources to support central ideas, concepts, and themes
6. Integrate quotations and citations into written text to maintain a flow of ideas
7. Use style guides to produce written reports that give proper credit for sources and include the use of MLA style for source acknowledgement
8. Use a variety of communication techniques to present information
9. Demonstrate an appropriate balance between researched information and original ideas

Program Objective C.

The student will be aware of and monitor reading comprehension.

Course Objectives:

1. Recognize confusion when reading
2. Monitor own comprehension by adjusting speed to fit the purpose, skimming, scanning, reading on, looking back, note taking, or summarizing what has been read so far
3. Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions
4. Select and use strategies appropriate to the reader, text, and situation
5. Demonstrate comprehension through discussion and writing

Program Objective D.

The student will express and support assertions about literature.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify and analyze use of indirect and direct characterization, setting, conflict, plot, point of view, theme, foreshadowing, flashback, irony, symbol, and other literary techniques
2. Explain the overall effect the use of literary technique has on the literature
3. Create personal understandings of texts and writing by combining personal experience with textual evidence during reading
4. Formulate stances that clearly express personal understanding
5. Use specific evidence from texts and writing to support stances
6. Explain how each piece of textual evidence logically provides support for the stance
7. Express stances and explain evidence in both writing and speaking

Program Objective E.

The student will demonstrate understanding of the conventions of the English language.

Course Objectives:

1. Classify words and phrases into parts of speech
2. Distinguish improper usage of conventions from proper usage
3. Employ rules for subject-verb agreement, capitalization, commas, verb tense, punctuation, and modifiers when creating sentences
4. Construct sentences using a variety of structures and lengths
5. Utilize a grammar reference book (such as *Write Source* or *Easy Writer*) to identify and correct errors

Program Objective F.

The student will produce organized pieces of writing using the writing process.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify the five steps of the writing process according to the *Write Source*
2. Use prewriting to generate ideas and plan a strategy for execution
3. Develop a strong, clear thesis statement for informational writing or an outline for narrative writing
4. Determine a purpose and audience
5. Assemble essays using distinct introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs
6. Appraise the writing to determine revision and editing strategies
7. Apply revision techniques that change the writing by moving, deleting, adding or rewriting text

8. Apply editing techniques that locate convention errors and correct them
9. Utilize available technology to publish the writing to fit various styles (including MLA) and purposes
10. Apply tools such as a rubric, checklist, and teacher feedback to judge the quality of writing
11. Write thoughtfully and reflectively about the process of composition