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# ENGLISH 4

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## Course Overview

*Welcome to Ms. Cancilla's English Language Arts class! I'm so excited to have you here!*

In my English class, we will truly dive into the *art* of the English language. As your final high school ELA teacher, it is my intention to provide you with some of the skills you will need for success in career, college, and life.

Throughout this school year, we will:

→ **READ, ANALYZE, & CRITIQUE** a wide array of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. We will be analyzing:

- text craft and structure
- arguments and claims in the text
- power and impact of language
- influence of history, culture, and setting on a text

→ **WRITE** for various purposes, such as:

- argumentative writing
- informative/expository writing
- narrative writing
- responding to literature

→ **EXPAND** vocabulary and **LEARN** conventions of Standard English (i.e., spelling & grammar)

→ **BE CREATIVE!**

## Class Rules

1. Follow all instructions the first time.
2. Be in the classroom with your bag stored on the shelf by the time the tardy bell rings.
3. During full-class instruction time, speak only if you have raised your hand **and** been acknowledged.
4. Keep your cell phone, headphones, and all personal technology stored in your bag at all times (unless you personally have received direct permission otherwise).

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## Class Materials & Supplies

**Textbook:** We will be working primarily out of the *12<sup>th</sup> Grade Collections* textbook, as well as some other supplementary texts. These books will be kept in the classrooms at all times. An online textbook is available for use outside of the classroom (accessible through V-Portal).

**Supplies:** You are *required* to purchase a **class notebook (composition style)** which will be stored in the classroom at all times. You will also need **pen, pencil, colored pencils, and highlighters** brought to class every day in your backpack. If you are able, please bring Ms. C. **tissues, hand sanitizer, markers** and **1 ream each of copy paper and college-ruled notebook paper** to be shared among the classroom. ***THESE SUPPLIES ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 16!***

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**Remember that *your* grade is *your* responsibility.** As a teacher, I do not “give” grades. Your grade is earned based on your academic performance in class.

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## Grading Policies

**All class work should be completed** with the expectation that it may be collected and/or graded. Do **not** ask, “Is this a grade?” The purpose of class assignments is to gain valuable information and to practice what has been learned. Any classwork that we do may count toward a grade.

### Late Work:

Please note that late work will **only** be accepted during my office hours.

### Absences:

Regardless of the reason for any absence (excused or not), it is *your* responsibility to be sure that you make up any missing work from the day(s) that you are absent.

- Class work will be posted to our classroom Canvas website, accessible through V-Portal. This is the best way to make up work from any day that you are absent. If you do not have Internet access at home or do not understand an assignment, it is your responsibility to come to office hours for clarification.
- Check the online grade book (Focus) regularly to stay aware of your progress in class. Missing assignments will be noted there.

## Florida State Grading Guidelines:

### Grades will be assigned as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

### Grades are weighted as follows:

- **Diagnostic:** 0% (not counted in the grade calculation)
- **Formative Assessments:** 40% of class grade (minimum 10 formative grades per quarter)
- **Summative Assessments:** 60% of class grade (minimum 3 summative grades per quarter)

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*Students will be provided with appropriate accommodations and alternative learning strategies as needed and as determined through their individual educational needs.*

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## Other Policies

### Tardies

As noted in my classroom rules, you are expected to be in the classroom door and ready to learn by the time the tardy bell rings. Tardies cause students to miss instruction and disrupt classes already in progress. Excessive tardies will result in parental notification and progressive disciplinary consequences.

- **1st Offense:** Teacher will conference with student about attendance.
- **2nd Offense:** Teacher will conference with student *and* contact parent/guardian.
- **3rd Offense:** Teacher will schedule a detention during office hours (with 24-hour prior parent notification).
- **4th Offense:** A discipline referral will be submitted, and administration will process and determine consequences.

### Electronics Usage

Unless otherwise specified each day, I expect ALL electronic devices to be stored in the backpack throughout the entire class. In the case of emergency parent contact, please use the front office.

However, we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and at times, some of our in-class assignments will require the use of technology such as a laptop or cell phone. Whether using a school laptop or personal cell phone, it is my expectation that all students will remain on task with their electronics usage throughout the **entire** class time. Personal social media usage will not be permitted.

Repeated off-task behavior or refusal to comply with electronics policies will result in conference with the student, parent contact, and/or potential discipline referral

### Communication

I can be contacted via email at [mecancil@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:mecancil@volusia.k12.fl.us). I will also be using the Remind app for class reminders via SMS.

### Go Panthers!

I am looking forward to a wonderful year at Pine Ridge High School, and I hope you are too! Let's make this year amazing!