

Roots Charter High School, 2017-2018
Ms. Sam Nielsen
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Composition Reading/Writing Syllabus

Welcome to Composition Reading/Writing at Roots Charter High School. I look forward to knowing you better and learning with you.

Class Description

In the Composition Reading/Writing course, students will concentrate on fundamental reading and writing abilities. This course is designed to help you reach the benchmark standards that the state of Utah has created.

Be kind to yourself. Be kind to each other. Be kind to the instructors. Be kind to the school and the environment.

You have choice in your education, but I will also create boundaries in the classroom. I am confident that this will give you your best chance to explore curiosity, retain information, connect with your instructors and classmates, feel safe, learn without distraction, and demonstrate to me that you have understood the material. I cannot control or force behavior, but I will invite you to respect the boundaries of your English classroom. They are similar to those found in your student handbook, but I would like to call attention to:

- ❖ Electronic devices: There will be no use of electronic devices unless approved by the teacher. This includes using a mobile device for: listening to music, watching videos, texting, looking at social media, etc. If you use an electronic device without permission, I will ask you to put it away. If this is not done, the device will be promptly taken for the remainder of class.
- ❖ Honesty and accountability: Be honest with yourself and the people around you. This includes producing your own work (for assignments, projects, assessments, etc.). Plagiarism/cheating for all or a portion of an assignment will cause you to lose credit for that assignment. If you need me to explain or clarify any part of the lessons or assignments, please ask. I am learning too.
- ❖ Language: Please be aware of the language that you use. Choose words that are honest, positive, kind, and respectful.
- ❖ Disrespect & Bullying: There is no toleration for any form of bullying, including: intimidation, threats, coercion, and speaking unkindly (with the intention to hurt, make fun of, etc.).
- ❖ You are also asked to follow the other guidelines included in the handbook, including: dress code, attendance, and prohibited substances/weapons. If you are unable or

unwilling to respect the boundaries of the classroom and school, you will be dismissed from class.

Where We're Going

Engage yourself in learning. Demonstrate to me that you have understood the concepts we are learning. This will be done on your own, in groups with classmates, as a class, or individually with me. I will use several ways of evaluating your understanding of the class material and the effectiveness of my teaching through: assignments, projects, a personal journal, an online portfolio, and assessments.

As a class, we will reference short stories, novels, poems, plays, published articles, relevant news, sound (music, podcasts, audio books, interviews, etc.), film, and personal experience. Each of these tools will add color and richness to your learning experience.

Grading

30% Assignments/Projects

25% Assessments

20% Journal

15% Attendance

10% Weebly Portfolio

A 100-89.5%

B 89.4-79.5%

C 79.4-69.5%

D 69.4-59.5%

I 59.4-0%

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After carefully reading the syllabus and asking any questions you may have, please sign below and return to me. This will be for credit.
