



Pre-AP English II (2022-2023)

Instructor: Matthew Davidson

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Room: 2108

Office Hours: after school Monday-Friday

Course Content

This course will prepare students to succeed in AP English classes in their junior and senior year. The junior level course concerns mostly non-fiction texts, and the senior level course concerns mostly fiction texts. As such, in the sophomore class we will pivot between these two modes of analysis throughout the year.

Because this is a Pre-AP course, much of the course content is mandated by College Board (who administers the SAT and AP test). We will also be following College Board's suggested scope and sequence for the introduction of the skills.

About the Instructor

I have over twenty years of experience as an educator and seventeen as a high school English teacher. Specifically, I have taught pre-AP and AP English courses since 2008, including both the junior and senior levels classes. I have also scored AP tests in the summer multiple times for College Board. As such, I have very solid grasp of what needs to be accomplished in order to prepare students for more advanced classes.

This is my first year at Waltrip HS.

Grading

Grades will be divided between major grades ("Tests" in the gradebook) and minor grades ("Classwork" in the gradebook), though "tests" are much more likely to be essays and projects than traditional tests.

"Classwork" is worth 60% of the final, and "Tests" are worth 40% of the final grade.

If less than approximately 10% of the AP classes are not making As at the end of a marking period, there may be a small curve of everyone's grades to accomplish this.

According to HISD grading descriptions:

A	90-100	Excellent Progress
B	80-89	Good Progress
C	75-79	Average Progress
D	70-74	Poor Progress
F	Below 70	Failure

I take this at face value, which is to say: As are reserved for *excellent* work-- not *good* work and certainly not *completed* work. There will be no such thing as a completion grade in this class. Each assignment will be graded on its merits. If students want to make As, they must *consistently* produce *excellent* work (which generally means *doing more than I expect*).

Required Materials

The expectation is that students bring their laptops to class, as most texts and activities will only be available to students in electronic form.

Assignments and texts can be accessed from Canvas or directly from my web-site:

<https://www.davidson-eng.net/>

Planned Units of Instruction

Unit One focuses moves in argument, examining the way in which speakers tailor their message to reach their audiences. The texts in this part of the year will be mostly non-fiction.

Unit Two focuses more explicitly on persuasion, building on the foundations of skills in the last unit. The texts in this part of the year will be mostly fiction.

Unit Three focuses on synthesizing material from a variety of sources to create an original argument. The texts in this part of the year will be mostly non-fiction.

Unit Four focuses on how themes are established in fiction texts, including a major focus on poetry.