



ENGLISH II

Phone: 713-688-1361

Website: www.houstonisd.org/waltrip

Teacher: Marian Ritter

email: marian.ritter@houstonisd.org

Room 2101 (on the second floor, at the very end of the hall, by the emergency escape stairs)

Dear English I Students and Parents,

I am new to Waltrip High School, but not new to education. This will be my 14th year teaching public school. Most of my experience has been with English reading and writing. I have taught Special Education and ESL also and therefore I do have a strong knowledge of individual student needs. As I teacher I will use the Gradual Release Process. This means that 1. I show the students how to do the work/assignment 2. I have the students do an assignment/work with me so they can try as a group while I guide them 3. I ask the students to do a similar assignment/work with a partner or small group while I check for understanding 4. I have the students independently complete work so I can know if they have mastered that type of work. The Gradual Release Process can be used all in one day if it's on simple concepts (ie find the verbs in the sentences), but on more complex concepts it will be spread over the entire week. The Gradual Release Process for Writing will take several months because writing requires a lot of thinking and planning.

GRADING POLICY:

Daily Assignments 50% (examples: answering comprehension questions, filling out a chart)

Test, quizzes, and projects 30% (CBA=Content Based Assessments, quizzes that review previous learning, end of year research project, any group projects)

Participation Grade 20% (will help boost grades by receiving a 100% if the student will simply complete the request that proves they are interacting with the class- examples: Padlet, exit slips, Kagan Structures, teacher conferences, and sharing during class discussions)

A MINIMUM OF 2 GRADES WILL BE PUT INTO THE ELECTRONIC GRADEBOOK EACH WEEK PER OUR PRINCIPAL MR. NIGGLI.

TUTORIALS

I am required to provide two 30 minute tutorial sessions each week. This is for students to seek extra help OR complete work because of being out sick or missing class for any other reason. At the beginning of the year I will be available for tutorials 5 days a week IF the student or parent will email me the request. Most days I will be at school until at least 4:15, so if you need help last minute please come to Room 2101 after school and I will be happy to help.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students should have their chromebook laptop and charger EVERYDAY at school. It is where most of the assignments will be shared and turned in. Students also need to bring something to write with (PEN OR PENCIL). If you would like to send notebook paper I would be grateful. I have students use it for many things because it is cheap and we must write (not type) much of the time because students must write by hand on the STAAR English EOC state assessment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main purpose of English I is to have students read and write on grade level.

A. For Reading we will analyze the article/story/poem in order to understand it at a very deep level. This is done by looking carefully at word choice (diction), discussing the author's purpose, connecting the ideas in the text to the current world and also the past, and discussing our ideas with others in the class.

B. Students will be asked to use CCP to become familiar with the many different genres (types) of texts. CCP stands for Consume Critic Produce. The idea is that for students to understand a genre they need to read many examples of that genre, analyze it for how it is organized and created, and then attempt to create that genre by writing our own.

C. This year students will be expected to write a poem, many essays, and several narratives (stories such as fiction or memoir). Examples will always be provided first. We will analyze the examples for elements that make the writing good. We will use a chart or checklist so that students have a way to guide their writing as they go along. A rubric will always be provided that lets students know exactly what must be included in the writing in order for them to receive a grade of A,B,C, D,F.

D. Punctuation and grammar are exact items in the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for English I. I will provide examples and show how to completely use each kind of punctuation or grammar that I must teach. These concepts will probably be the easiest and fastest for students to catch on to, so please take advantage of these "quick and easy" grades at the beginning of the year.

E. Terminology for English I can include the words and definitions for Foreign Expressions, Plot, Plays, Imagery, Literary Terms. The gradual release process will be used for students to become familiar with each group of terms. Students will be graded with a quiz or test on each kind because these terms will be on the STAAR EOC and also on the District CBA tests each month.

F. Teachers at Waltrip are being asked to use Kagan Structures this 2018-2019 school year. Kagan is a way of grouping students and also having them prove participation. I will be using these when I feel it is helpful to the kind of concept I have planned for that day.

