

Ninth Grade Literature and Composition
Ms. Nissenbaum
Annex Room #4
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Welcome to NGLC! This class is designed to make students stronger readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and critical thinkers.

Grading:

Daily (Group work, in-class assignments, participation, bell work)	20%
Quizzes (Vocabulary, reading quizzes, homework, rough drafts)	30%
Test Grades (Final drafts of writing, projects, unit tests, notebooks)	35%
Final Test (This is an EOCT, and may not be exempted)	<u>15%</u>
	100% total

Materials Needed: (Bring to class EVERYDAY!)

- Separate (This class only) 3-ring binder (No spiral notebooks, please)
- 5 dividers (label as: **Notes/Lit. Terms, Conventions, Writing, Vocabulary, Random**)
- Loose leaf ruled paper (College ruled, not wide ruled)
- A pen and/or a pencil

Classroom rules:

1. Food and drinks **are** allowed in class. However, if I find trash in the classroom, I will suspend this privilege. If the privilege is revoked, and you are eating and/or drinking in the classroom, you will be asked to put it away. Also, your food should not be a distraction during instruction. Finally, use a napkin, and don't brush your crumbs on the floor.
2. Do not pack up 5 minutes before the end of class. This is rude. Expect bell-to-bell instruction.
3. No classroom disruptions (Leaving seat without permission, talking out of turn, talking during instruction, interrupting in anyway.)
4. **No Grooming.** Hairbrushes, make-up, combs, etc. used during class will be collected until the end of the semester. **Be beautiful with your mind.**
5. There will be no pencil sharpening during class time. Do this before the bell.
6. No heads down on your desk at any time, even if you are not sleeping! If you are sleepy, go splash water on your face, get a drink of water, or stand in the back.
7. **Be in your seat when the bell rings!** *If you are not in your seat when the tardy bell rings, you will be written up. At the bell, you should have all necessary materials and you should begin your bell work.*
8. **Be polite and respectful** to your classmates and myself. In this room, all ideas are equally valid, and should be treated as such. No teasing, talking back, arguing, etc. This is considered bullying, and will not be tolerated.

Consequences:

Obviously offensive, **disrespectful**, or aggressive behavior will result in immediate ejection from the classroom and a discipline referral. I have the job to teach and you have the job to learn. I take this very seriously.

Any less severe infractions of the rules above will result in a teacher-generated detention that the student must serve on the appointed date and time. If the student does not show up for the detention, I will refer the student to the office. My detentions last from 2:50 to 3:20 in the afternoon on Monday through Thursday in my classroom. If you are late to a detention, you will be referred to the office. If you get two detentions, I will write a discipline referral.

Make up work/tutoring: Upon your return to school after an excused absence, you will need to ask a classmate what you missed. Find a classmate who you trust to let you know what you missed. Exchange numbers. Then, after you have spoken with a class mate, tell me what you need to make up. Come before or after class. After school and lunch are great times, too. If your absence is excused, you have **5 days** to make up the work. After that, those grades will become zeros. Saturday school is the only way to make up zeros after the five days.

Tutoring is available Monday and Wednesday from 2:50-3:20. This is also an excellent time to get missed work and make up quizzes and tests or get extra help with assignments.

Attendance (See the state attendance policy) please note that I take careful notice of attendance.

Academic notes:

- Keep all of your work (notes, handouts, tests, papers, daily work, etc.) in your notebook for the entire semester, unless it is put in your class folder.
- Keep this syllabus in the front of your notebook.

Ms. Nissenbaum's note:

I expect this classroom to be a place of learning and safety--safety to take part without fear of ridicule, safety to take chances, and finally, to succeed. We look forward a great year and to our learning together.

Remember: **Never settle for less than your best!**

Parents: Please read, discuss with your child, sign, and return.

Student name _____

Parent's signature _____ Date _____

Daytime phone number _____

Parent's email address (If this is a good way to contact you) _____

Student's signature _____ Date _____