

**English 9A
1st Semester
Rm 775**

**Everson
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This class is an opportunity for you to develop and practice your skills in reading and analysis of literature as well as writing. Our various texts will be the vehicles through which you can hone your critical thinking abilities, and our writing exercises will be your outlet of expression for these abilities.

During this semester we will be reading poetry, short fiction, and the novel *Animal Farm*. Our objectives are to master the elements of literature, practice the writing process, and improve organization of writing.

Some of my goals:

- To help you begin to master the elements of literature and language.
- To help you improve your comfort level and ability in regards to reading and writing.

Primary class guidelines:

- Don't lie to me.
- Respect everyone in the classroom.
- Be present, not just "here."
- Do your work to the best of your ability. Strive to improve.

Other class guidelines

- Items like mobile phones, portable music players, etc., will be forfeited if they are a distraction to anyone in the room.
- Any major written assignment can be revised for a better grade — unless it is late, in which case revisions will not be accepted.
- Be an advocate for yourself — if you need more time for an assignment, come talk to me *before it's due*. If you show up the day an assignment is due and ask for an extension you will be denied unless the circumstances are extraordinarily exceptional.
- Plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment and no chance to revise it.

Materials needed every day:

- A notebook dedicated to this class. We will use this every day for journals, writing practice, etc.
- A folder or binder dedicated to this class. We will use this to keep and organize handouts, copies of stories and poems, and other "loose" materials.
- A blue or black pen. It's tough to write without one (and tough for me to read if it's anything else).

A Series of Tubes:

It would appear the Internets are here to stay. Beginning this year, I am developing a Web site for improving communication with students and parents. A blog of activities, assignments, and homework will be posted every day we meet. I will also post PDFs of handouts that you can download and print (starting with this document). It's no MySpace, but I think it will be pretty useful — which I suppose is the opposite of MySpace. So run home and bookmark:

www.mreverson.com

Attendance policy:

Any unexcused absence will result in a grade of "zero" for any assignments due that day.

Grading policy:

All assignments, activities, homework, class work — everything — will fit into one of three categories:

1. performance/participation
2. learning activities
3. summative assessments

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|------------------------|---|--|---|
| <i>assessment type</i> | <u>Performance/ Participation:</u> What kind of student are you? | <u>Learning Activities:</u> Are you learning the material? | <u>Summative Assessments:</u> Do you understand the material? |
| <i>% of grade</i> | 10% | 30% | 60% |
| <i>Description</i> | Grades in this category will show how dedicated to learning a student is. | Grades in this category will reflect what a student is doing to understand the material. | Grades in this category show how well you have mastered, or learned, the material. |
| <i>Examples</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion participation • workshop participation • citizenship • effort | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writing process activities (outlines, rough drafts, editing, etc.) • in-class activities • homework • quizzes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • final drafts of formal writing • tests and exams |

I and my parent(s) have read the guidelines for English 9A with Mr. Everson.

Student Name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent signature: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____