



Percy L. Julian High School

English I- Writing

2011-2012

Contact Information

Teacher: Mrs. Baltsas

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Web site: <http://www.mrsbaltsas.net>

Room: 004 Conference: 3 and 4

Course Description

Freshman Writing is based on the **College Readiness Standards (CRS)**. This grammar-usage and writing-intensive course will provide students with the required skills and strategies for successfully writing persuasive and expository essays and research papers. Emphasis is placed on higher order thinking skills. Students will be given opportunities to not only become competent writers, but also, critical thinkers. Students will engage in the writing process in depth and detail using strategies such as: ACTS, MEL-Con, STACS as the primary organizational frameworks for writing effective essays. The instructional strategies for this class include: technology, modeling, large and small group discussions (Socratic Seminar), note-taking, annotating, guided practice, independent practice, cooperative learning, and independent writing.

Objectives

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Complete common writing tasks using the ACTS, MEL-Con, and STACS strategies.
- Synthesize information from multiple primary and secondary sources.
- Assemble and convey evidence in support of the thesis.
- Elaborate ideas clearly and accurately through word choice, vivid description, and selected information.
- Feel confident with the development of personal writing style.
- Formulate opinions and, through practice, learn to express them in writing.
- Use grammatically correct language, including vocabulary appropriate to the topic, audience, and purpose.

Grading Scale

- A 90-100**
- B 80-89**
- C 70-70**
- D 60-69**
- F 69 and Below**



Explanation of Grading

Grades will be updated and posted on the classroom web site on a weekly basis.
All students are responsible for monitoring their grades on the classroom and school web site.

50% Exams, Projects (Essays, Research Papers..)

Essays: Students will realize the importance of prewriting, peer editing, and submitting multiple drafts. If a student receives a grade that they deem unsatisfactory, the student has the opportunity to make the necessary revisions and to re-submit the paper. Drafts will not be accepted unless a brainstorm and/or outline have been submitted.

*****PLAGIARISM***** Plagiarism is when you fail to cite direct quotes, information, or ideas from another source. You must cite other sources within your paper(s). Failure to do so is considered cheating and you will receive a 0% on your paper. Plagiarism is also grounds for disciplinary action. Please refer to your Student Handbook for an explanation of the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education's policy on plagiarism.

Exams

5 and 10 week Exams



40% Quizzes

Quizzes will be given once a week (usually during Thursday or Friday).

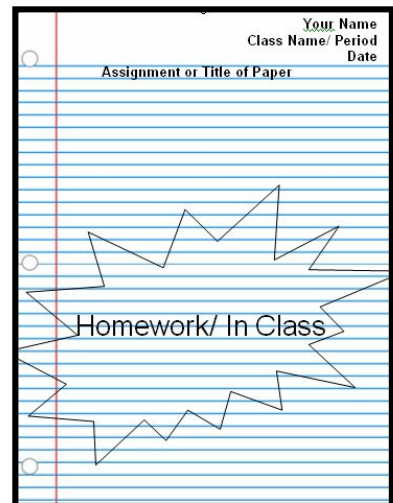
10% In Class Assignments, Homework and Binder

➤ **In Class Assignments** include: bell ringers, taking Cornell Notes, annotating reading assignments, and various activities that are based on mastering the College Readiness Skills. This grade will also be based on participation in small and large group discussions.

➤ **Homework Assignments**

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis. Just as you can't become good at sports without practice, you cannot become good at English without it either. Homework is meant to practice new skills and incorporate old ones.

Most assignments must be written in ink on standard loose-leaf paper. Some assignments will be typed. **See format for turning in assignments(right hand side).** In addition **all assignments need a heading or a title.** Everyone is expected to do his or her own work unless otherwise instructed. Any evidence to the contrary will result in the assignment receiving **no credit**. When assignments are to be collected, they will be given a point value.




Assignments are **due WHEN CLASS BEGINS** and will be collected while you are completing your bell ringer; otherwise only 50% credit is earned if an assignment is completed after it is due.

➤ **Binder**

All returned papers must be kept in the appropriate section of your binder/portfolio for record, reference, review, and to study for all quizzes and exams. Remember, your work represents you! There will be a formal binder check every 10 weeks.

Required Supplies

 **Three ring binder w/ five dividers** and loose leaf paper
Organized in the following manner:





- * Section 1: Agenda/Bell Ringers
- * Section 2: Notes
- * Section 3: Handouts
- * Section 4: Graded Papers
- * Section 5: Assessments (Tests, Quizzes, Projects)



This binder will be a complete document of your learning. Use loose-leaf paper in your binder so you can easily extract parts of your work to turn in/ share without having to rip it out of a spiral. **I will not accept spiral bound work.**



Students are also required to bring the following supplies to class daily:

-  **BINDER** (completed homework should be placed in the front)
-  **Black or blue ink pen**- No red, pink, purple, green, yellow...
-  **# 2 pencil**
-  College ruled **notebook paper- spiral bound paper not accepted**

Supports

- **Tutoring** is available Monday- Thursday in the library from 3:00-4:30 or during my conference periods.
- **Classroom website:** <http://www.mrsbaltsas.net>

Mastery Plan Policy

Our goal is for every student to graduate; therefore, we make additional efforts to help all failing students. Prior to receiving an “F” for a course, all students are entitled to a remediation plan to recover their grade **EXCEPT** when the failure is due to refusal to participate in class and/or classroom activities OR due to excessive absences and tardies (no more than 10 absences). Teachers do have the discretion to issue remediation plans in conjunction with attendance plans to students, but in order for the remediation plan to be counted toward the grade, the **attendance contract** must also be fulfilled. *Students are encouraged not to depend on credit recovery. Students should use as many other resources (i.e. asking questions, attending tutoring, etc.) to ensure that they pass their classes.*

Attendance Policy

All Percy L. Julian students are expected to attend school regularly. Each student is expected to maintain at least 80% attendance in order to participate in school activities, field trips, etc. This means that students should not miss more than 10 days of school per semester regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Students should be aware that a “cut” is considered to be an absence – a “cut” class is any class where a student does not receive the teacher’s permission to be somewhere else even if this is in another class with another teacher. All students need passes.

Also, per Board policy, students who miss more than 18 unexcused absences may be ineligible to earn credit for any class that they take. It is prudent that all students present notes to the attendance office upon returning.

The Tardy Policy

1 Step	1ST Tardy Receive a TARDY ticket from security
2 Step	2nd Tardy – Parent Call
3 Step	3rd Tardy – Lunch Period Detention/Attendance Office Referral
4 Step	4th Tardy – Lunch Room Detention
5 Step	5th Tardy – In School Suspension/Parent Conference/Referral to CARE Team

- Tardies are cumulative within all classes and reset to zero every month
- Penalties must be served within 72 hours

Classroom Expectations

Class begins when the tardy bell rings. All should be **SEATED** at this time. Visit the restroom, your locker and the drinking fountain on your own time. Plan accordingly. I reserve the right to restrict you from the privilege of leaving the classroom. Hall passes will only be given in an extreme emergency.



Proper classroom conduct is expected at all times! That means **RESPECT** for yourself as well as others. Disciplinary action for misconduct is as follows:

- 1st offense = warning
- 2nd offence = telephone call home
- 3rd offense=removal from class/write-up referral

The 5 Expectations

- Use **positive** language
- Be **on time**
- Be **prepared**/ bring your binder and supplies
- Be **respectful** of yourself and others
- Be **on task**