

Language Arts 10

2013-2014

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Course Overview

Tenth grade language arts is a reading and writing intensive course designed to develop effective critical thinking and writing strategies necessary for success in high school, college, and life. This course emphasizes the study of argument through literary and information readings and process driven writing. We are constantly working towards mastery of skills and concepts that are aligned with the common core standards.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will effectively write arguments that are supported with evidence.
- Students will demonstrate application of critical reading strategies.
- Students will skillfully engage in literary analysis.
- Students will work collaboratively with peers in discussions, projects, and assignments in order to further understanding.
- Students will accurately delineate and evaluate specific claims while assessing the validity of reasoning within the framework of argumentative writing.

Grading Policies

Your grade will be based on the following:

- Participation in class/Completion of assigned daily reading
- Writing Assignments
- Assignments/Projects/Presentations

Participation / Daily reading

Students receive points daily based on level of classroom engagement. These points comprise a significant portion of a student's total grade; they amount to 40% of the final grade each term. A student must do the following to receive full points for a class period: be on time, bring a book to class (this should be a book that students are reading in addition to assigned class work), participate in activities, and do the daily reading assignment.

- Students who come to class late lose a third of that day's points. Students are expected to be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. If students are not seated and ready to work they will receive a tardy.
- Students are expected to bring an outside book with them to class every day. This should preferably be a book off of the class college book list, but it needs to be a book that students are reading outside of class. Students are expected to bring the same book until they finish it or decide to read something else. It is unacceptable to bring a different book every day. Students who fail to bring a book will lose a third of that day's points.
- Students will have an assigned amount of reading to complete for each class period. The reading will be around 20 pages of the text we are currently studying. Students will be given about 30 minutes of class time to do the assigned reading. If a student needs more time it is their responsibility to come in at lunch, before, or after school to complete the assignment. We will also have a limited number of books that students can check out and take home. These will be assigned out based on availability and need. I strongly encourage students when possible to buy their own copies of the books we study. Students who choose not to do the daily reading will lose a third of that day's points. It is crucial that students find a way to stay caught up with the reading. This might mean coming in before school, after school, or during lunch.
- Students are expected to actively engage with and be part of classroom discussions, projects, and assignments. Students receive points for being an activate participant.
- If a student has an excused absence, one that has been cleared by the office, they can make up the points they missed. Students have one week to come to my room before school, after school, or during lunch to make up these points. Students will have one week after an excused absence to make up points.

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments are formal evaluations of student performance and comprehension. Students will write daily in class, but that writing does not fall under this category. This category includes formal essays and end of book analysis. Many of these assignments will be timed, in-class essays. At least once a term students will have an extended amount of time to develop a more substantial essay. Writing assignments account for 35% of a student's final grade. To do well on writing assignments students need to do the following:

- Pay attention to the rubric. For each assignment students will be given a rubric that will specify exactly how the paper will be scored.
- Do assigned reading and mini writes. Keeping pace with assigned reading and engaging in class activities is the best way to prepare for essays.
- Get additional help. I will conference with each student about each paper, but our time together in class is limited. Students need to be ready to seek additional help when needed. I am almost always available up to an hour before and after school.
- Students need to be in class on the day of an in class essay. Only students with emergency situations or those who have made prior arrangements with me will be allowed to make up an in class essay. The dates for these essays are posted at the start of each term. Emergency situations include family deaths, serious illnesses, or injuries. I expect you to be in class on these days.
- Students who fail to turn in formal essays on time will be docked 30% of the total point value, and essays will not be accepted one week after the original due date.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. This policy includes copying work, cutting and pasting, and claiming others' thoughts to be your own. Any paper guilty of plagiarism will be given a zero.

Assignments/Projects/ Presentations

Each day in class we will do a variety of assignments. These assignments, projects, and presentations account for 25% of a student's final grade. Homework is included in this category.

- Work is expected to be turned in on time to receive full credit. Late work will be docked 10% of the total point value every day it is late.

Course Readings

Students will have access to a class copy of the texts we study. I encourage students if possible to have their own copy of these texts as it allows them to more actively engage in the reading process and annotate the work. At times our class readings will deal with mature themes and content. Students may request an alternate text if the assigned reading makes them uncomfortable. Below is a list of texts we will be studying.

- *The House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros)
- *A Long Way Gone* (Ishmael Beah)
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Khaled Hosseini)
- *Night* (Elie Wiesel)
- *Macbeth* (William Shakespeare)

- *My Name is Asher Lev* (Chaim Potok)
- *The Alchemist* (Paulo Coelho)

Grade Scale

92%-100% A
90%-91% A-
88%-89% B+
82%-87% B
80%-81% B-
78%-79% C+
72%-77% C
70%-71% C-
68%-69% D+
62%-67% D
60%-61% D-
0%-59% F

Homework

Although we will try and accomplish as much as possible in class, students will often have homework. Students will be given time and are expected to work on large writing assignments during class. This affords me the opportunity to monitor progress and helps to avoid plagiarism. However, students may find they need additional time outside of class to complete work. Any assignment not finished during class time becomes homework. Homework is to be turned into the class basket before class begins on the day it is due unless otherwise specified.

Late Work

No work will be accepted one week after the due date. Work that is turned in after the original due date will be penalized. See the above section on grading policies for specific details. It is expected that students make arrangements with me prior to the due date of an assignment if they need an extension. I recognize that situations may arise that may prevent a student from completing his/her work. However, I expect students to notify me of these situations in advance. It is not acceptable for a student to ask for an extension on the day an assignment is due.

Make-Up Work

Make-up privileges will be given for excused absences that have been cleared through the office. Students need to make arrangements with me on the first day they return to class from their absence. In general, students will be given one week to complete their make-up work.

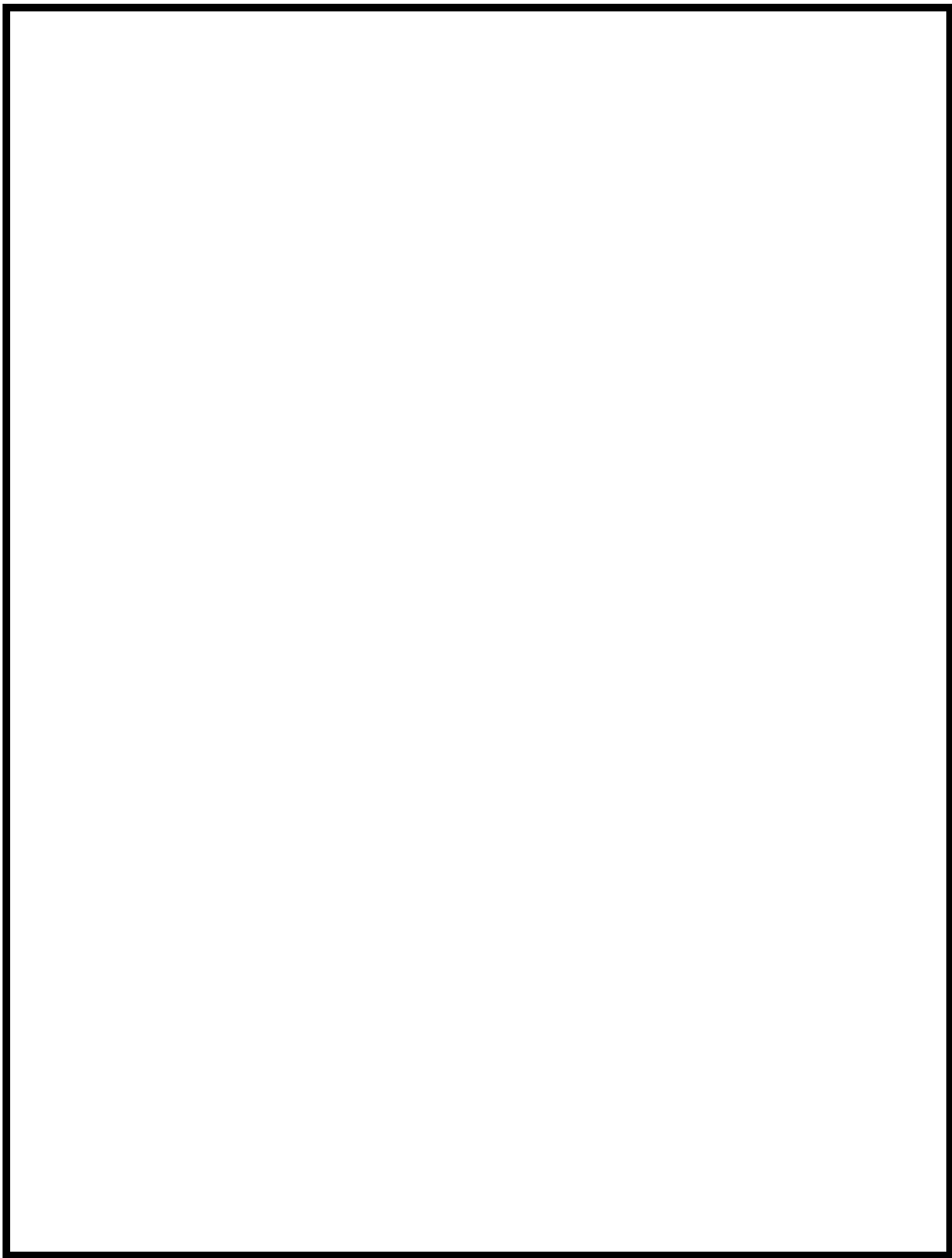
Behavior Expectations & Classroom Conduct

On-time Attendance and Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class each day and be on time and ready to learn. Class begins with a starter and students should be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings. Students should also be fully engaged in all class activities.

Electronic Devices & Other “Nuisance Items

Items that distract from learning are not allowed in class. As per school policy, any electronic devices (cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, hand held games, student laptop computers, etc.) will be confiscated and given to the office.



**Please Return this Portion
(ENGLISH 10)**

Student Name:

Parent Name(s):

Parent Contact Information:

Telephone_____

E-mail_____

Does your student have access to a computer and internet at home? Please Circle One
Yes No

Do you have any questions or concerns?_____
