

Mr. Tobey



Mr. Tobey's Teaching Philosophy:

Two ideas drive my entire teaching philosophy:

1. Relationships > everything else;
2. I am empowering students to positively change the world, both in the future and in the here-and-now.

More specifically, my goal for all English 10 students is to guide them as they transition from being freshmen to upperclassmen that are ready to positively impact their community. There are three key areas I focus on helping students develop:

1. Time & project management;
2. Personal work style and habits;
3. Ownership of learning.

(You'll notice nowhere do I mention reading, writing, speaking, or grammar; all the standard English-Language Arts skills are merely tools for a much greater purpose.)

English 10:

English 10 explores and analyzes communication through speaking, writing, reading, digital media, and current events. Through the use of teacher and peer workshops, students will develop analytical self-assessment skills by critiquing with peers, one-on-one meetings with teachers regarding written and verbal work, dissecting published work, analyzing literature through various critical lenses, and analyzing and connecting current events to day-to-day life.

Required Student Materials:

- *Binder or folder for organization
- *Spiral bound notebook or Composition notebook (Writer's Notebook)
- *Loose Leaf Paper
- *Writing Utensil
- *Free Reading Book (can check out from school library)

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- *Highlighters, colored pencils/pens, or markers (for editing)
- *5 tabbed dividers (Notes, Article of the Week [AoW], Grammar, L2J Vocab, Summative Rubrics)

Class Expectations:

- BE KIND
- WORK HARD

Class Procedures:

Due to the nature of this class, a vast majority of class time is independent work time for students.

- **TECH & BYOD:** Students are *highly* encouraged to regularly bring a personal device and earbuds for music as well as any personal tablet or laptop to English 10. Music may be listened to during independent work time; most work is done using GoogleDocs, the classroom website, and various online grammar sites. During direct instruction or group discussions, all electronics should be face-down on a desk or in a bag/purse/pocket, and earbuds must be out of ears. Devices are not to be used for texting, calls, social media, videos, or gaming. Phones must be left with Mr. Tobey if students leave for the office or restroom.

- **FLEXIBLE SEATING:** There is no formal seating arrangement in English 10. Students must choose a seat that faces the front of the room during direct instruction. Otherwise, students are to choose the best seating option based on what they are working on that day. Students should choose a seat and seat partners that will not distract themselves or others; students are allowed to change seats during class if they find themselves being distracted. Mr. Tobey or the sub will move any student that is distracted or becomes a distraction; the teacher has final say on seating. (I will trust you unless you give me a reason not to.) Seats may be rearranged, but students *must* return all seats to their places at the end of the period.
- **READING:** Students will read the first 10 minutes of class every day, so they must have a Free Read book in class every day. Students are responsible for reading & Book Talking 600 pages per semester (summative) with a midterm check (formative), as well as a semester-end Free Read Gallery Submission (summative).

Grading Policy:

The final grade for this class is determined by three major categories:

- **Formative (20%)**
 - Formative Assessments (e.g., homework, writing workshops, quizzes, vocabulary & grammar practice, journaling, weekly articles, and discussions) are meant for students to **practice, develop, and interact** with new information so students better understand the content. Therefore, grades can either be calculated (e.g., figuring a percentage based on how many right on a quiz) or based on completion. *It is important to realize that it is in the student's best interest to complete formative assessments with full effort to know what one does and does not know; this is a tool to perform well on summative assessments!* Formative assessments can be redone as much as needed in order to understand content better. However, a window of one week after students receive the assessed formative assignment is allowed for redos; after that, the highest grade is recorded.
- **Summative (65%)**
 - Summative Assessments (e.g., tests, formal presentations, formal written pieces, and projects to name a few) are meant to show what a student knows by the end of a unit. Students should be able to predict a Summative grade based on their Formative Assessments. Summative Assessments have *no* redo opportunities. (Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis; these must be communicated *in advance*.)
- **Final (15%)**
 - The Final is a capstone project in which each student will present what skills he or she has learned and mastered throughout the year, as well as analyze how certain major themes we've covered apply to his or her own life. The final has *no* redo opportunities.

Independent Work, Units:

Students will work on Grammar Units, Root Focus units, and Free Read independently. There will be posted check dates for progress; these check dates are formative grades. Completing all assigned Grammar and Root Focus units will be counted as a summative test grade in the gradebook. Once the deadline for completing a unit has passed, students will **not** be able to make up the unit. Students have the ability to work on these units in the timing and manner that best suits them.

Late Work Policy:

- If you plan on being absent for ANY reason, **please make arrangements prior to your absence** to turn in your work and/or get assignments and notes.
- Late Work will be deducted 10% per day; these points cannot be made up. Students must contact home to inform parents of late work and have a written plan for completing work with Mr. Tobey.
- Once work is past due by five school days (with an exception for previously made arrangements and illness) it will no longer be accepted.

Classroom Communication:

Classroom Website		tobeyclassroom.weebly.com
Email		blake.tobey@district145.org
Twitter		@BlakeTobey