



2023-24

# HONORS ENGLISH 9/10

WITH MRS. DEKKER-BLACK



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# MRS. DEKKER-BLACK

ATYP ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR

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## DR. SCHULTZ MS. NAN

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📘 <https://www.facebook.com/ATYPWMU>



## Help Session & Tutors

Sunday 4-6 pm (online, Year I channel) Tutor: Maddy  
Sunday 4-6 pm (in-person) Tutors: Brigid & Emma  
Monday 7-8 pm (online, General channel) Tutor: Marlow  
Tuesday 7-8 pm (online, General channel) Tutor: Emma  
Wednesday 7-8 pm (online, General channel) Tutor: Brigid

**Kiari (Mrs. D-B's grader):** [kairi.s.martin@wmich.edu](mailto:kairi.s.martin@wmich.edu)

Maddy: [madalyn.rockwell@wmich.edu](mailto:madalyn.rockwell@wmich.edu)

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Emma: [emmaferg@skatezoo.com](mailto:emmaferg@skatezoo.com)

Marlow: [marlow.r.underwood@wmich.edu](mailto:marlow.r.underwood@wmich.edu)

Benjamin: [benjamin.d.whitsett@wmich.edu](mailto:benjamin.d.whitsett@wmich.edu)

## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to prepare you for college writing and to think analytically, creatively, and independently. This class fosters a workshop atmosphere with feedback from your peers that makes our class special in that *your* writing will be a portion of the text. Class activities will focus not only upon reading but also on the process of writing: planning, drafting, and editing. Your papers will see several stages. This is not a class where you write a piece at the computer and turn that version in with no review. The portfolio will showcase your most revised/best work. The only way to become a better writer is to write and to develop critical reading skills. As I become familiar with your writing, we will also focus upon individual goals for you.

During the first half of the year, students will work on several formal essays: exemplification, description, narration, cause and effect, and process analysis. Students will study and respond to several literary essays from various authors. Students will also read short stories and poetry; they will have some opportunities to showcase their creative writing strengths. Public speaking components will reflect our reading. Students will keep notes for readings and lecture. We will write about and discuss aesthetics and philosophy—specifically applicable to art/artist/process. We will use a variety of different technologies including eLearning and Microsoft Suite. Critical thinking skills, time-management, interpersonal, and metacognitive skills will be stressed throughout the course.

Details about second semester will be forthcoming; thank you for your patience and understanding that our schedule is subject to change.

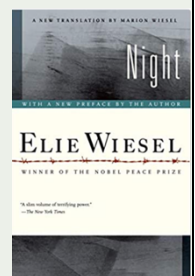
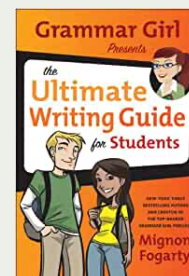
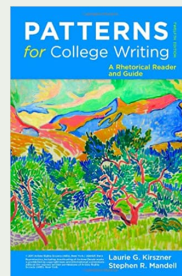
## Course Materials

### HE 9 Books:

- *Patterns for College Writing, 12<sup>th</sup> edition.* Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell (ISBN-10: 0312676840; ISBN-13: 978-0312676841)
- *Grammar Girl Presents the Ultimate Writing Guide for Students* by Mignon Fogarty (ISBN-10: 0805089446; ISBN-13: 9780805089448)
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel (ISBN-10: 9780374500016; ISBN-13: 978-0374500016) **Required by Week 8, do not read ahead.**

### Supplies

- Computer
- Mic and web camera (for snow days and online meetings)
- Camera (phone or digital-- a parent's phone works for this)
- Internet connection
- WMU account access to:
  - Exchange (email server for WMU)
  - Microsoft office (Word, PowerPoint, Forms, Teams, etc.) – download onto your computer, sign in with WMU log in for free access.
  - eLearning and GoWMU
  - YouTube and Google – sign in with your WMU log in for access.
- Hardware token/key fob or student's cell phone (WMU account login requirement) **NOT PARENT'S PHONE**
- College ruled notebook with perforated pages.
- Two 1.5-inch binders, one for each grade (Recommended: create a cover page with your name and day of class typed or written out. Decorate as desired. Slip your cover page into the binder's front cover plastic sleeve)
- Eight tabbed binder dividers (four for each binder)
- 2023-24 weekly academic planner
- Pens (black or blue (for writing) AND red, green, or purple (for editing); optional: erasable)
- Pencil for annotating in books that you own. (Please do not write in the Office's books.)
- Dependable access to a printer
- Stapler
- 3-hole punch (Everything you print for class should be stapled and punched prior to class.)
- Not Yet Mindset
- Optional: Dedicated ATYP bag or backpack
- WMU ID Card



### Attendance Policy

Missing a day of class is equivalent to missing two weeks of normal high school English. If you **MUST** be absent or leave early, please notify me as soon as you know you'll be absent so I can plan activities and groups accordingly.

Do not schedule non-urgent doctor's appointments or vacations during our day of class. You may not miss class for team practices or school related events (e.g., talent show, student rallies, field day).

I will be on campus at 1:00pm. Arrive to campus early if you need to print (an adult must take you to the student center to print), use the restroom, buy snacks/drinks, ask questions, return library books (an adult must accompany you to Waldo library to return books), etc. Attendance will be taken at 1:20. You or your adult should text me if you're going to be late.

If you are late to or absent from class, you risk losing some or all of your participation points for the day.

You may contact me to see if you can participate in one of the other days that I teach if missing class is not avoidable. However, you may not make up all missed participation points from your missed class day. You can, however, obtain all of the lecture materials to prepare you for that week's homework, which could be valuable for your success that week.

### In the Event of a Snow Day

Instructions for class will be sent to your wmich.edu email address. Expect to do work, even on snow days. Homework will remain the same.

### Minors on Campus Policy

You may not be dropped off at Sangren Hall prior to 1:00 pm unless there is an adult with you.

You may not roam campus without an adult with you. This rule includes printing in the student center and returning books to Waldo library.

For more information regarding Western Michigan University's policies regarding minors on campus, please visit <https://wmich.edu/policies/minors>

### Students with Disabilities & Special Needs

WMU provides academic assistance for students with disabilities, including the emotional, technical, and academic support necessary to achieve academic and personal success. Families are encouraged to tell the instructor if accommodations are needed from disability services. Please communicate any needs or relevant medical information to me at the beginning of the school year.

### Electronics Policy

We live in the age of technology. Digital communication is expected throughout the week. (A week is a long time to go without talking with your teacher.) However, digital communication can also be a hindrance to community building. During our class time together, I ask that you only use electronic devices when absolutely necessary or when asked. Lecture notes may be typed, but you should not have internet browsers, messengers, etc. open during class. We need to be physically present for one another.

Ask before taking a photo or recording a video, as people value their ever-diminishing privacy.



### ATYP Code of Conduct

ATYP students are representatives of the program at their schools, at the university, and in the community. As such, they are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, particularly while on campus. Please read the following Code of Conduct carefully. The form must be read before enrolling in ATYP.

- I will not leave WMU-owned and/or controlled property unattended during the Program.
- I will consider the privacy wishes and concerns of others before using cameras, video recorders, or any type of recording device. I will not use any type of recording device in restrooms or other areas where participants may expect privacy.
- I will make every effort to be present and on time for each class.
- I will make sure I have all the appropriate materials I need and will be ready to work at the designated time.
- My homework will be complete and on time.
- All homework will be done by me, and I will utilize help that is appropriate to the assignment. I will not knowingly plagiarize material from any source, but especially not the internet.
- I will keep cell phones, tablets, and laptops put away while in class unless otherwise approved by the instructor.
- I will treat all university property with respect. I will clean up after myself and bring all trash to the receptacles outside the classroom.
- I will act appropriately and courteously at all times while on campus. I understand that University classes and business are being conducted while I am present on campus, and I will not disturb those activities.
- I will use school appropriate language and behavior as well as keeping my hands, feet, and other objects to myself. This includes walking (not running) and using an indoor voice in the hallways.
- I will address other students, instructors, and staff respectfully. I will listen with the same respect, understanding that the opinions of others are equally valid. I will offer only positive comments and avoid negative stereotypes.
- I will be tolerant of others especially where it involves race, religion, sexual orientation, disability status, gender, age, or ethnic background.
- I will follow all University, classroom, and instructor rules.

When you register you officially sign a copy of this Code of Conduct. Cases of misconduct will be reported to the ATYP office and each case will be treated on an individual basis. Serious infractions, or repeated minor infractions, may result in a student being dismissed from the program.

### Student Expectations

- Thoughtful, thorough, and timely completion of all assignments
- Organization of thoughts in writing and the portfolio
- Close, careful reading of all the material.
- Energetic participation and respectful attentiveness during class.
- Conduct in keeping with university surroundings
- Adherence to the ATYP Code of Conduct
- Articulation of ideas, beliefs, and opinions
- Respect for the ideas, beliefs, and opinions of others
- Regular and respectful communication
- Time management skills & the creation of regular weekly schedules considering personal, familial, academic, and extracurricular obligations and our homework load

If something is affecting your class performance, please let me know and we can work on it together. Remember that I'm here to help you—keep in touch with me about your concerns, frustrations, struggles, ideas, and triumphs. Never hesitate to ask for help.

### Working Agreements

This list of working agreements are ways to practice being in a community of caring people with each other. We are working together during challenging times and will use class literature to delve into topics that may be uncomfortable to talk about. ATYP is a challenging environment, too, both academically and emotionally. It will put you out of your comfort zone regularly. You'll feel vulnerable with other students when you have to share your writing or participate in a class discussion where you don't know all the answers.

The following agreements have served me well not only in challenging learning spaces but in my relationships, both personal and professional. I believe these agreements will help us become a community of learners. We'll leave them open to revision throughout our time together, and we'll practice them with each other.

- Take risks; lean into discomfort.
- Value the process as much as (if not more than) the outcome.
- Be both a teacher and a learner.
- Respect confidentiality: stories stay, learning leaves.
- Avoid put-downs (even humorous ones, *even about yourself*).
- Take space, leave space: be mindful of air time.
- Practice *oops* and *ouch*.
- Practice self-awareness and self-care.

### Online Learning Expectations (Help Sessions and Snow Days)

During class and help session, students should locate themselves in an area free of distraction and, if at all possible, other people. You should feel comfortable speaking up in discussion without the sideway stares of Water Street customers or the side pokes from your family members or friends at school. This is our time, and while 2.5 hours seems like a long time right now, when we become comfortable with each other, you'll frequently scratch your head and wonder where the time went.

Please do not record or take pictures of our class without asking.

### ATYP Policies, Tips, and Strategies

I refer you to the standard *Rules and Responsibilities* memo that was mailed to you. Please familiarize yourself with the following ATYP articles as needed:

- "Avoiding Digital Distractions" (<https://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/about/digitaldistractions>)
- "Homework Tips" (<https://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/about/homeworktips>)
- "Rules and Responsibilities" (<https://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/about/rules>)
- "Survival Tips" (<https://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/about/tips>)
- "Time Management Strategies" (<https://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/about/timemanagement>)
- "Safety Policies and Procedures" (<https://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/safety>)

### Portfolio

Once you've obtained a passing grade (green grade) on any journal, weekly writing, or essay, you will print that paper (revision highlights included). Your Portfolio will be organized into four main sections: Journals, Weekly Writings, Essays, and Handouts. Each section should be organized by week in an ascending order.

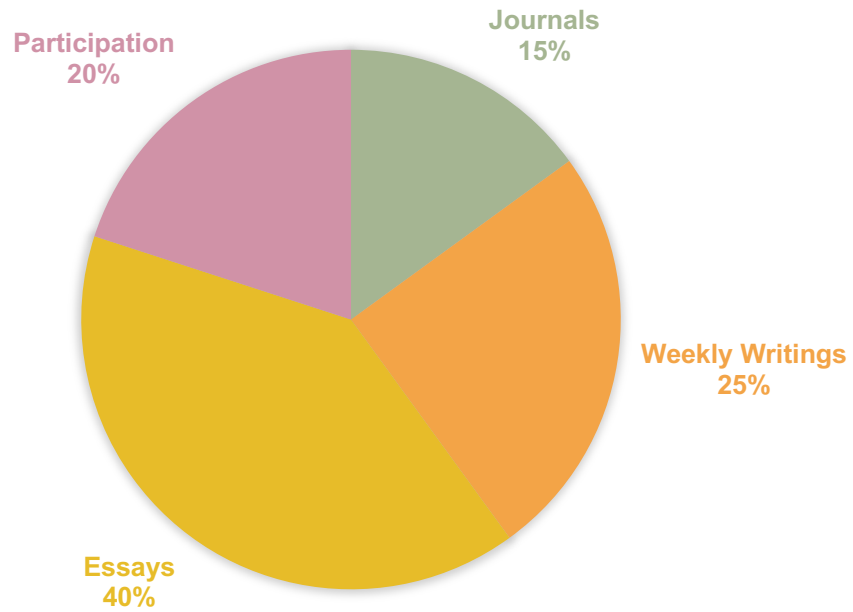
### Plagiarism & Academic Honesty (Chat GPT)

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the *WMU Student Code* document that pertain to Academic Honesty ("Article IV: Proscribed Conduct" and "Jurisdiction of the University/Conduct Policies.") These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, and computer misuse. The policies are found here: <https://wmich.edu/conduct/honesty/definitions>.

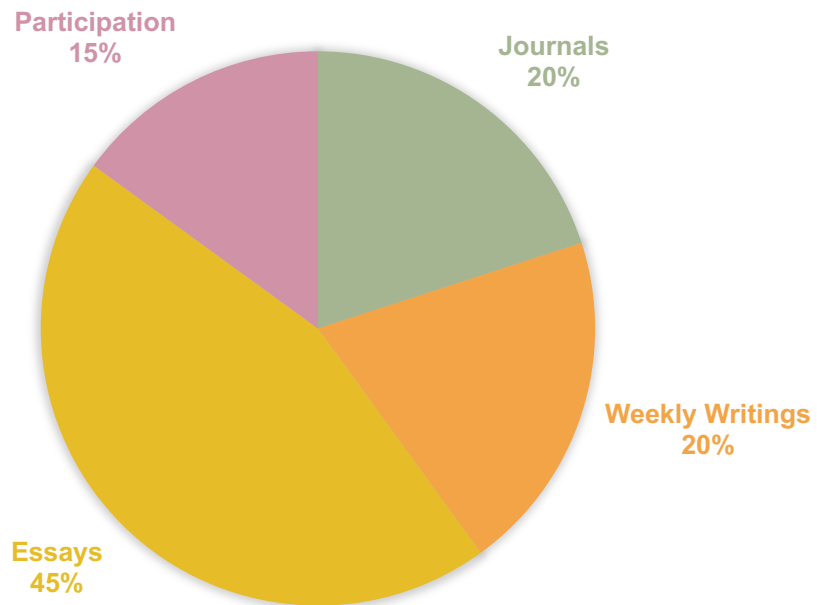
Special Note on the use of ChatGPT or other AI in writing: The University is treating all AI generated student work—that is work that is clearly 100% work written by a bot at the command of the student—as cheating. Do not assume your AI is

listing or parsing sources that are real or accurate. Do not assume that your instructors will not check your citations. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty.

### HE 9 ESTIMATED GRADE WEIGHT



### HE 10 ESTIMATED GRADE WEIGHT



## Journals

Do not confuse this work with your in-class writings and notes. You will receive directed journal entries that should reflect 10-15 minutes of outlining or planning, 45 minutes to 1 hour of writing, and about 5-10 minutes of proofreading. This goal time may take a few weeks to reach, however, outlining and brainstorming prior to writing can significantly reduce the amount of time you spend typing your paper.

### Journal Formatting:

- Single-spaced
- 1 full page of writing
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins on all four sides of the document
- Proper heading
- Relevant title
- Proofread & checked for grammar issues
- Appropriate file name
- Saved as a .doc or .docx file
- File name: First and Last Name-Week # Journal-Draft # (example: Jane Doe-Week 1Journal-Draft 1)

Journals are worth ~1% ea. of the final grade.

**Writing Assignment Formatting Tutorial:** <https://youtu.be/mGMTkLVlhWI>

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word document titled "Document2". The ribbon is set to "Home", and the font is "Times New Roman" in size 12. The document content includes a header area with a placeholder "Your-Last-Name:INSERT page number", followed by fields for "Your Name", "Week #", and "Assignment type -- Draft #". The main body of the document contains the instruction: "This is where you will type the text of your paper. Journals are 1.0x spacing. Weekly Writings are 1.5x spaced. Essays are double spaced. Journals must be 1 full page +/- 5 lines. Weekly Writings are 2 full-3 full pages in length. Essays vary in length."



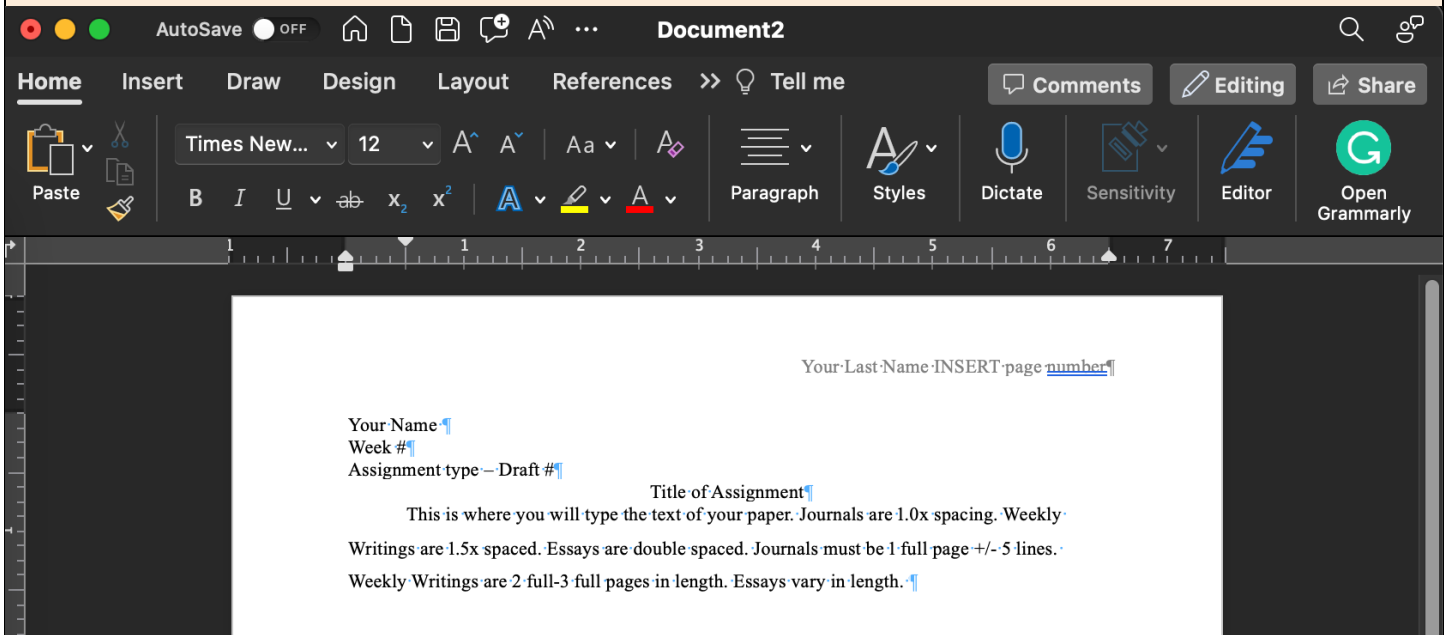
## Weekly Writing

Weekly Writings should reflect a total of 2-4 hours of planning, writing, and proofreading. Again, this goal time may take a few weeks to reach, however, outline and brainstorming prior to writing can significantly reduce the amount of time you spend typing your paper.

### Weekly Writing Formatting:

- 1.5 spacing
- 2-3 full pages
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins on all four sides of the document
- Proper heading & header
- Relevant title
- Proofread & checked for grammar issues
- Appropriate file name
- Saved as a .doc or .docx file
- File name: First and Last Name-Week # WW-Draft # (example: Jane Doe-Week 1WW-Draft 1)

WW are worth ~3% ea. of the final grade.



## Essays

At the conclusion of most units, you will submit a formal essay related to the technique or topic studied in that unit. These essays will be longer and more polished than the weekly writings and journals. All essays will be revised. Depending on the nature of the essay, plan on 4-7 hours of work.

### Essay Format:

- Double spaced
- Length varies (read the instructions thoroughly for specific requirements)
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins on all four sides
- Proper heading & header
- Relevant title
- Appropriate file name
- Proofread & checked for grammar issues
- Saved as a .doc or .docx file
- File name: First and Last Name-Week # Essay-Draft # (example: Jane Doe-Week 1Essay-Draft 1)

Essay weights vary by assignment. Outlines, rough drafts, status reports, etc. will be assessed for a small percentage while final essay projects tend to weigh more heavily on the final grade.

Document2

Home Insert Draw Design Layout References >> Tell me

Paste Times New... 12 A A Aa A Paragraph Styles Dictate Sensitivity Editor Open Grammarly

Your-Last-Name-INSERT page number

Your Name

Teacher's Name

Class Name

Week #- Draft #

Title of Assignment

This is where you will type the text of your paper. Journals are 1.0x spacing. Weekly Writings are 1.5x spaced. Essays are double spaced. Journals must be 1 full page +/- 5 lines. Weekly Writings are 2 full-3 full pages in length. Essays vary in length.

## Revisions

As a rule of thumb, if your writing assignment (journal, weekly writing, or essay) is green in the gradebook, you do not need to revise. You will be permitted to revise your paper up to two times for a better grade. You will save each draft of your paper with a different draft number in the file name.

### Revision Protocol:

1. Make a copy of your previous draft.
2. Name this file with the new draft #.
3. When you make a change, highlight it so the grader can easily spot your new work.
  - a. If you remove work or fix something that is difficult to highlight, leave your grader a highlighted footnote or a message at the end of your document explaining the change.

Each new draft will have a different color of highlighting to indicate the most recent changes. Please leave previous highlighting. If your paper goes through several revisions, your final one will be colorful!

- Draft 2 (revisions made on your first draft): yellow highlight
- Draft 3 (revisions made on your second draft): green highlight

### Example:

File Name: Maggie Parker- Week 7 Essay - Draft 3

Text Sample:

Eighty-seven years ago our forefathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the idea that all humans are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil

After first drafts of a specific assignment have been graded, you will have 2-4 additional week to elevate your grade before the assignment closes. After the revision period ends, the assignment dropbox on eLearning will be locked and no further submissions will be permitted. This revision period will allow students to revise up to the third draft if revisions are completed weekly. Late work and waiting to complete revisions will hinder your ability to revise to the third draft stage and may negatively affect your final assignment grade. In short, work on your revisions *every week!*

## Participation & Professionalism

This is your willingness to:

- take part in-class activities (on camera/ use of microphone during online classes)
- respond to emails promptly
  - Some email responses may be graded. Check your email every day and be sure to follow directions.
- keep notes during class and while reading
  - You may be asked to submit reading and/or lecture notes throughout the semester. I would prefer that these are typed; however, legible handwriting and book annotations may be acceptable.
- keep your files organized on your computer and in your Portfolio
  - Your Portfolio may be graded throughout the semester. Make sure that you are keeping it up to date before class every week.
- use of appropriate file names
- help others and be a kind team member
- arrive to class on time
- come prepared for class
- work with classmates outside of class (virtually or in-person) for group projects
- meet deadlines for assignments
- seek help when struggling
- adhere to the ATYP code of conduct
- ...and basically, contribute to the community of the class.

Participation & professionalism assignments cannot be made up and late work will not be accepted. However, a large chunk of these assignments will be completed during class. Be present.

### Late Writing Assignments

If you miss the first draft due date of a writing assignment (or if your paper is less than half way complete), your final grade for that assignment will be reduced one grade (example: Check Plus to a Check). You may not see this change in the gradebook immediately.

Unless your grade is in the green zone (A, BA, B, Plus, or Check Plus) you are responsible for revising the paper using the comments left for you to guide your changes. If you have not revised your paper to the green zone by the revision deadline, you will be stuck with the most recent grade for that assignment (plus the late first draft deduction if applicable).

The homework sheets should allow you enough time to plan around events, sports, chores, other course work, etc.; but, if you feel there are extenuating circumstances preventing you from completing your work on time, we can have a private conversation about this. Do your best to contact me **before** missing any deadlines/due dates.

### Final Grade Breakdown

%	Letter Grade	Check System Grade	Essay Grade	Credit Grade
93-100	A	+ (100%)	Excellent (100%)	Credit (100%)
87-92.9	BA	Check Plus (92.9%)	Strong + (92.9%)	
83-86.9	B		Strong - (86.9%)	
77-82.9	CB	Check (77%)	Fair + (82.9%)	
73-76.9	C		Fair - (76.9%)	
67-72.9	DC	Check Minus (67%)	Weak + (72.9%)	
63-66.9	D		Weak - (66.9%)	
Below 62.9	E	Incomplete (50%)	Incomplete (50%)	Partial (50%)
--	--	DNS (0%)	DNS (0%)	No Credit (0%)

Grades are viewed by the instructor as a means of **motivating** and **challenging** students as well as an indication of mastery. At any given time, your grade is a snapshot of where you are at that moment. However, our class is graded based on your progress from the first draft to the final draft. You almost always have the chance to revise, often multiple times, to improve. To be clear: your grade is in flux until the final evaluation at the end of each semester.

Our University grading system does not allow plus and minus grades. Letter grades are: A, BA, B, CB, C, DC, D, E. We request that home schools “err on the side of generosity” when calculating grade point averages. So, a “BA” should translate to your report card as a “A-“.

### Mandatory Help Session ('C' and Below)

If a student's overall grade falls below at or below a C ( $\leq 76.9\%$ ) after the first ~6 weeks of each semester during HE 9 and/or HE 10, the student will be required to seek extra help every week until their grade reaches a 'CB' ( $\geq 77\%$ ) Weekly help may consist of several different activities such as: attending help session, working with one of the English tutors, working with a private tutor, or meeting with me or an ATYP staff member for academic coaching.

*Students are encouraged to take advantage of these services and opportunities regardless of their current grade in the course.*

### Red Grades (Placement Questioning)

If a student's overall grade falls into the red zone (72.9% and below) around or after midterm during HE 9 and/or HE 10, a placement conference or similar discussion may be scheduled with the student and the student's guardian(s) to discuss placement in the program.

### Typical Due Dates

#### Typical Tuesday Due Dates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WWs	Essays  Revisions  Update Portfolio  Writing Assignment Checklists  Help Session Checks	Lecture Notes  Class P&P assignments			Readings/ Notes	Journals

#### Typical Wednesday Due Dates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Journals	WWs	Essays  Revisions  Update Portfolio  Writing Assignment Checklists  Help Session Checks	Lecture Notes  Class P&P assignments			Readings/ Notes

#### Typical Thursday Due Dates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Readings/ Notes	Journals	WWs	Essays  Revisions  Update Portfolio  Writing Assignment Checklists  Help Session Checks	Lecture Notes  Class P&P assignments		

\*Make sure you consider your other obligations, including time for rest and relaxation. If you plan your week out, you can schedule a few days off every week!

Assignment are due by 10pm, with the exception of regular class P&P assignments (due dates may vary)

### Help Session & Extra Credit

Help sessions (or other help—see previous page’s “Mandatory Help Session” section) are only required on any particular week if your grade is a ‘C’ or below by the beginning of class that week. You will need to complete a Help Session Check (template on eLearning) and upload it to the appropriate dropbox the night before class that week. If you attend help session with a with an ‘A,’ ‘BA,’ ‘B,’ or ‘CB’ and thoughtfully complete the Help Session Check the night before class, I will add 0.25% to your final grade for every Help Session Check (1 per week) completed-- up to 3%.

Extra credit opportunities might arise throughout the semester. While I value and appreciate all the work you do, do not count on extra credit to give you a significant grade boost. Extra credit will not exceed 5%. Most extra credit papers and events are worth (up to) 1%.

### Pep Talk

We expect a lot from our students, but you’re here because your adults believe you can do this, and your academic achievement has shown that you are ready for this challenge. Please let me know whenever you feel overwhelmed. This class is meant to be challenging, but not crushing! Along with your parents, you have a support system in the tutors, the ATYP staff, and me.

Keep in mind, I can only help you if you let me know that you need help. Wise students will attend tutoring/ help sessions with our tutors (who are amazing!), email or text when confused, ask/email questions, take risks, and stay on top of homework. Seriously, it isn’t a bother. If I didn’t want you to contact me, you wouldn’t have my cell phone number or email! I will do my best to respond within two business days.

This class, I hope, will be like nothing you’ve experienced before. It will be tough, but manageable. The discussions we have will brighten your soul - seriously, we don’t deal with some of the shenanigans that you’ve experienced with classmates who just don’t “get it.” There will be times when you leave class invigorated, and there will be times when you just want to quit. Both are okay. (But, give it six weeks and TALK TO ME before you consider dropping.)

The best learning happens when you are in what educators refer to as a “moderate state of challenge.” My guess is that you’ve rarely experienced that in school. The tough part is that it doesn’t always feel comfortable when you are challenged. In fact, I’d argue that the best things I’ve learned have been when I’m fairly UNcomfortable. Think about this class like learning how to walk. You’re going to fall down. Occasionally you’re going to hurt yourself. But, I promise to be your biggest cheerleader when you succeed. And, though I won’t kiss your boo-boo’s, I will listen to you vent frustration and help scrape you back together.

I am looking forward to working with each of you. Your classmates and I want your input and insight. Be sure to ask questions and contribute to class discussions and *listen* to your classmates, your instructor, and yourself. Think about what others are saying when they review your work so that you can consider the counsel of others along with your own. And lastly, take some **risks**. Try new ways of approaching assignments. Explore. You will very likely surprise yourself. Good luck!



### Advice from 2022-23 Students

Although you should be hype about the readings, you may be wondering *how am I going to do all this homework???* I am currently writing to you from our last class of the year, so I can tell you it was a struggle at some parts. This would most definitely be related to my lack of time management skills. This is why you **MUST CREATE A SCHEDULE... AND STICK TO IT**. Procrastination is like a virus... It will creep in and you might not feel it at first, but it will be hard-work to recover. I speak from experience. Do not wait until the last minute. [...] Sometimes assignments will be extremely difficult but use your resources to help you through these roadblocks. Attend help sessions, email Mrs. Dekker-Black with questions, and even use other peers. It was a great help through this year to text quick questions to the friends I have made in this class. Branch out!

L.H.

To be successful in ATYP, you must do a few things. One, listen to your teacher, and make sure you understand the rules (and formatting) from the beginning. Second, you must take time. This is no longer something you can rush through, and I know you don't understand that now. It is not the homework that you can finish quickly, you will have 10-12 hours of work a week, if you work quickly and with no distractions. Third, ask questions and go to help session. I know everyone says this, but it is true. When I did not go to help session, my grade started slipping. I promise you, you need to go to help session. Also, if you don't understand something the teacher says, or the feedback the grader left, ask someone. I recommend emailing or texting your teacher. Honestly, there were weeks I had so many questions, I emailed Mrs. D-B 7 times in 3 days. Trust me, it will help. Fourth, and maybe most important, you **ABSOLUTELY** need to make sure you have no digital distractions. It will take you 3 hours to finish something that should have taken 1 hour. I suggest writing on paper and then typing it into your document, it will be much easier.

In ATYP, you will face many challenges. I know right now you are saying 'that won't be me'. Yes, it will be. Even if you don't have a bad grade, you will still find challenges in this course. You are in 7th/8th grade, and now you are in 9th/10th grade, so naturally, it will be harder. You could find that you are tired, or that you start crying because of this class.

Tip(s): Follow formatting perfectly, check prompt 2 times, check NOT YET list at least once.

E.M.

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Academically Talented Youth Program! It definitely took a lot of work to be here and those tests were brutal. But you made it in and now have some amazing opportunities.

Mrs. D-B is a great teacher, and you'll have a lot of fun being in her class and around the other students. The course has a mix of creative and analytical writing prompts so there is something for everyone. Most of the big unit projects are fairly fun so you won't have to worry about dying of boredom while doing them. The end of HE 9 was more creative writing heavy so I had a lot of fun with that portion. We also read some really interesting texts as well, though I can't say you'll love the reading notes.

My best piece of advice for doing well in this class is to stay motivated, even though the boring stuff. ATYP gives a lot of homework and you do not want to wait long to get started on it as rushed assignments often are not of high quality. You can revise most assignments, but you don't want to rely on that, or you'll end up swamped with additional work. Speaking of revisions, utilize those! It is really helpful to be able to go back and fix your mistakes on an assignment. It is rare to get a good grade first try so not revising can really drop your grade. In addition, double-check the assignment requirements on the homework sheet before you submit. This advice applies mostly to later assignments, but it is a good habit to get into as nothing is more frustrating than getting a bad grade over something small. And again, "**DO NOT PROCRASTINATE**".

You might have trouble adjusting to the workload. The program does a good job of working to adjust you but there is definitely a change so be prepared. After a while you get used to it so don't worry too much. Sometimes there are a lot of little assignments that are hard to keep track of. In order to not forget anything, I have been using a checklist. (Also download

T.M.

Throughout the year, you will encounter several assignments. Some of which you will absolutely hate, and some that are quite interesting. You will read novels, memoirs, articles, and poems, and by the end of the year, you will look back and think: "Huh, I can't believe I actually lasted this long". There are many things to look forward to, such as the research unit we do later in the year, along with many creative projects that we hand draw. (If you're a drawer, you will love this class).

Honestly, this class requires you to give it your 100%. Any day you walk into class with less than a 100% effort, it will definitely affect your grade. Also, it's always important to have patience and keep calm. It takes time for ideas to flow in your brain. It's definitely not going to come naturally. Time management is also another skill that is crucial for this class. If you don't plan your week ahead, you're not going to do well completing your work.

I know that when I first stepped into class, I was really nervous, and my heart was beating like crazy. I didn't know anybody in my class because all of my friends either took math or were on a different day. I slowly sat down in a chair and braced myself for whatever it was to come. And, now, on the last day of HE 9/10, I look back to that day and wonder why I was so nervous. Not like I was sacrificing myself (well, maybe I was). For me, the hardest part of this class was to sit down and know exactly what I was going to write about. Sure, I would have a prompt and everything, but before I actually started typing, I would just sit there and wait until something clicked inside my brain.

I know that you are going to do well in this class. You already proved yourself when you took the entrance exam. Just, believe in yourself, and know that everything is going to work out just fine. For the first few weeks, you might consider dropping out or giving up, and that's okay! I myself thought about dropping out after the 4th week. I just gave myself some time to let things straighten out and that was one of the best decisions I made this year. So, now that you're here, you might as well do your best, so, take a deep breath, in and out, and I know you can do this!

A.P.

Buy a planner!!! Time management is everything in this class. The homework could be the easiest assignment you've ever done but if you leave it all for the night before class you'll end the night crying with only half your work turned in. So buy a planner and use the syllabus!!!

E.R.

Participating in ATYP HE 9/10 is difficult so listen to how to be successful within this program. Pay attention in class and listen very closely to topics that are being discussed and instructions. Participate in answering questions and in class discussions to show that you are paying attention and are engaged in the conversation. When doing homework, MAKE SURE YOU PLAN OUT ENOUGH TIME TO DO YOUR WORK because you will need as much time as possible. I know it becomes hard balancing work with family and extracurricular activities, but you can do it! Follow the instructions to the best of your ability on the assignments to forgo less revisions or any revisions at all [...]

Although ATYP is a great program, you will face some challenges. My biggest challenge at first was not quitting. You will feel regretful at the beginning for joining this program once you see the amount of work involved. But TRUST ME! You will feel regretful if you drop out. It becomes easier and it is worth it. Most of you will also face the challenge of procrastinating. It is hard enough to do the work, but it is even harder to do the work after procrastinating because you will then have even less time. Try not to do it!

T.S.

There is a lot you need to know about your future ATYP explorations. You have to learn how to manage your time, which you'll either learn the easy way or the hard way. ATYP is not easy and the homework takes a lot of time. Being organized is crucial to succeeding and it also teaches you a critical life skill. The biggest challenge I faced was that I did not believe in myself. I wanted to quit very early on, but I didn't and you shouldn't either. ATYP is difficult and sometimes makes you want to poke your eyes out, but overall, it's totally worth it. If I made it, you can too. Don't be too hard on yourself and give yourself time to adjust and grow. You are both your own cheerleader and doubter, pick which one you want to listen to.

S.H.

Classes are really fun! I always looked forward to them. Mrs. Dekker-Black is a great teacher and super kind. One time in class Mrs. D-B did an experiment on us. [...] By the end, we were all running around and having a lot of fun. Our guest artists were also cool. They taught us about art and poems.

M.K.

One of the biggest problems I had is catching up on revisions. Revisions are so, so, SO important. Do not forget to do them. They are the most important part to bring your grade up.

E.K.

One thing I didn't think I would find through this program was fun... but it truly is! There is so much enjoyment to look forward to. The instructors are magnificent, and the people are brilliant and witty! Sometimes the best people come into your life when you least expect it, so, keep an open mind! The support I experienced here was beyond belief. I have made lifelong friends who have each other's backs, people you can celebrate your victories with and who will hold your hand through the hard times.

This program takes guts, perseverance, and an open mind. You must be open to taking risks, both educationally and socially, and I believe you will soar! You have to have the drive to undertake even the toughest of tasks, and you cannot procrastinate! Consider procrastination a new swear word and don't let it into your life! The worst habit to get into while in ATYP is to push off your work. You will be miserable and find that it is so much harder this way! I recommend putting in the extra hours and putting off whatever you need to at the beginning of your work week to finish your work in time and still find rest or do anything else you enjoy!

If the workload is heavy, still give yourself breaks! I found myself (literally) crying at the beginning of my first semester in HE 9, overwhelmed and unable to catch a break, doubting myself and struggling with even putting my mind to work. It is truly a large load to take on at a young age, and there is so much pressure, but let me tell you this: whatever strength you lack at the beginning of the semester, you will have received back at the end twofold!

C.B.

In HE 9-10, it is not all boring writing assignments. You will read thrilling novels about historical events, loss of innocence, life, and love. If you are more of a creative person, don't worry! We decorate cardboard boxes, write stories with imaginary scenarios, and so much more! When I started ATYP I was scared to write creative papers or poems, but my time here has changed that. Even if you do not enjoy all of the assignments, I can guarantee that you will find one you love. When I walked into class on the first day I felt alone. However, you will form friendships with other students that are unbreakable because you have gone through the same experiences. Do not worry about embarrassing yourself, because everybody has been there or will be at some point. You will become more confident in your writing, and in life.

Even though He 9-10 is full of positives, it is hard work. First, **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP!** Mrs. D-B gave you her phone number and email address for a reason. If you are confused on an assignment, it is so much better to ask for clarification than get a bad grade on an assignment, especially if you cannot revise it. Even if your papers are not the best, and you get Not Yets on almost everything in the first semester, (that was me) you can end with an A in the class if you **REVISE!** Revisions saved my grade in HE 9-10, and I know many of my classmates could say the same. Your teachers take time to add comments to your papers, so do both of you a favor and address each one! To be successful, you need to be able to admit your mistakes. If you forget to bring something to class, tell your teacher and see if you can fix it. Trust me, Mrs. DB will be able to tell when you are telling the truth or not! Don't use the "my printer broke" excuse (that was also me). Admit your mistakes, and your teacher and classmates will respect you.

A.M.

There's a lot to look forward to throughout your upcoming year at ATYP. Boy, do you have a lot of writing assignments to do! I hope you'll have fun crafting your island survival guide, swapping a villain for a hero, and putting yourself in the shoes of a time traveller. There really is an assignment for everyone. I hope you love your new teacher, Mrs. Dekker-Black. She'll answer any question you have and help pull you through the rough times. I hope you make lots of new friends. I hope you find your people here at ATYP; I sure did.

You'll need a few things before you begin your time here. First of all, you'll need grit. The best way to keep up with the exorbitant amounts of homework is to keep your nose to the grindstone, stay on task, and work as hard as you can. It pays off, trust me. You'll need an open mind to succeed in ATYP. Your instructors will show you things about yourself and about these silly combinations of symbols and spaces that make up letters and words and sentences that you never thought possible. You need to love words and books and the smell of a library.

S.N.

Here are a few things to help you be successful in the program. First, you must remember the value that lists have. Make lots of lists. Second, remember that most of your work can be revised and that the first grade isn't always the last one. Revisions can be the difference between a good grade and a bad one. Also, while procrastinating may not seem like a big deal, you must remember that finishing your work early is really good. At first, I took the weekends off and wrote my papers on the days that they were due. Don't take weekends off. If there is a big piece of advice that I have for you, it is to try and finish the readings one or two days after class, and immediately follow with the journal. Do your best, and most importantly, listen to your parents. My mom was constantly giving me advice that I wasn't listening to, and I regret that now. Another tip to help you succeed is to figure out what you are going to do if you are really sick. I became so sick at the end of HE 9 that I couldn't do any homework, and that did not end well for me. Make a plan with your teacher, or at least have one in mind. Finally, never underestimate the power of the extra credit help session. Those little points build up, and they can change your grade big time. Don't forget it.

J.W.

### How Parents Can Help

1. Set timers based on the recommended/ estimated time for completion (ETC) of each assignment.
2. Eliminate digital distractions (Remove internet distractions and phones while reading, outlining, and writing Journals, WWs, and/ or Essays)
3. Ensure the student gets enough sleep the night before class (sleeping in class is like being absent; students could miss up to 2 weeks of advanced HS ELA while snoozing)
4. Ensure due dates and deadlines are met on time/ be aware of tardy assignments and late deductions, i.e., ensure student submits homework on time
5. Encourage the student to email and/or text me for help
6. Encourage student to advocate for themselves instead of communicating on their behalf.
7. Encourage the student to attend help session for tutoring or revision help
8. Ensure the student is on campus or online no later than 1:15pm
9. Check formatting of papers. (*Not content! That's my job.*)
10. Shoulder to cry on, words of encouragement, anecdotes that put the pain in perspective, mental/emotional guidance and support