**Albuquerque Talent Development Academy**

**English Language Arts, Grade 10**

**Instructor: Debra Miller, Classroom 5a**

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Home: (505) 205-5104

**Course Description**

This course is an opportunity to explore language, literature, and current events as a window onto a world of diverse cultures and histories. Students will read fiction including novels, plays, short stories, as well as related news stories and historical documents, plus view a limited selection of media. During this class, students will:

* Develop their ability to think, read, and write critically and independently.
* Build fluency with vocabulary usage and sentence structure.
* Craft clear, original, and specific thesis statements.
* Organize concrete textual evidence to support those thesis statements.
* Learn the elements of literature and how they are used to convey ideas or arguments.
* Understand how history and culture inform literature.

**Course of Study**

Unit I. Training/Retraining on the elements of basic essay writing.

Unit II. News Articles and Media: The Influence of Technology and the Internet on American and World Culture.

Unit III. Novel: *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow – a compelling contemporary retake on *1984.*

Unit IV. Documentary: *“The Internet’s Own Boy”* – The story of Aaron Swartz; writer, political organizer, and Internet activist.

Unit V. Graphic Novels: *Maus I & II* – a World War Two retelling from the viewpoint of a survivor and his son.

Unit VI. Play: *“The Tempest”* – Shakespeare’s final play, seen through the lens of colonization.

**Grades Based On**

* Citizenship – Coming prepared, participating in discussions, supporting peers, and demonstrating engagement with the class.
* Class work – Includes in-class and homework assignments, writing journals, reading journals, vocabulary, and Group/Class Activities.
* Quizzes/Tests – On reading assignments, vocabulary, grammar, etc.
* Independent Projects – Assigned by unit of study, both independent and small group
* **Parent will be notified when student is in danger of failing or repeatedly does not turn in homework.**

**Late Work/Makeup Work**

* Work is to be done on time UNLESS student has made prior arrangements with me.
* In the case of an excused absence, the student is entirely responsible for approaching the teacher finding out what homework they need to make up.

**Supplies**

* 1 box of Kleenex
* 2” 3-ring binder exclusively for this class
* 5 Tabbed dividers for binder.
* Loose-leaf college ruled notebook paper
* 1 spiral bound notebook or composition book exclusively for this class
* Sticky notes
* Blue/black pens
* pencils
* Eraser
* Highlighters – 3 colors

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The most crucial part of being in this class, outside of reading, writing, and performance tasks, is *respect*.

You have my respect, unconditionally. You are to extend the same to me and to each and every member of this class. A class where everyone treats each other with courtesy and kindness is one that opens itself up to endless learning potential. Please keep this in mind at all times.

Reading and homework outside of class will be part of your work here. I will give as much time in class as possible to work on these, but you will be responsible for anything not completed during the day.

**Expectations of Students**

* **ASK QUESTIONS**, but do so at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner
* Participate fully in partnered and group activities.
* Listen quietly when I or another student is speaking.
* Be prepared for class. This means being on time, bringing all necessary materials, and quietly working in your Writing Journal immediately by the time the bell rings.
* Approach mature, adult themes with openness and respect.
* **Be outstanding classroom citizens** by supporting everyone’s academic success. Participation will make this class; a lack thereof will break it. Discussion will be respectful and orderly whether interesting or boring ***(and if you find it boring it’s your responsibility to make it interesting).*** Each person will speak clearly for him or herself, back up opinions with evidence and make sure EVERY one is permitted to speak. This is a shared learning experience.

**General Classroom Expectations**

* ***Compliance with all requests; any concerns or objections are expressed privately after class.***
* Speaking when called upon; absolutely no side chatter while another person is speaking.
* Respect the classroom; throw away garbage and keep tables clean.
* Respectful verbal and body language at all times.
* No foul language
* No throwing of ANY objects.
* Terms referring to groups of people will not be used in a negative manner, even as a joke.
* No gum. It ends up on the floor, under desks, and it’s hard to understand you when you are chewing.
* If you finish a task early and are caught up with your homework in this class:
  + Do not interrupt anyone else doing their own work.
  + You may read ahead in the class text under study, from a book of your own, from something in our in-class library, or I will give you a pass to look for something in the school library.
  + Go over your spelling words.
  + Do not do homework for any other classes here. This is an English class, and that is to be your focus while you are in this room.
* **Cell phones and other electronic equipment must stay in backpacks or bags AT ALL TIMES, unless we are using them for an in-class exercise, OR if you have my permission for a family emergency, etc. The following consequences shall be assigned per student violation and not per device:**
  + First Offense: I will take the device and you will have to pick it up from me at the end of the day.
  + Second Offense: Your device will be taken to the Main Office, and your parent or guardian will have to pick it up from the school office or the Vice Principal/Principal.
  + Third Offense: You will check your device to the office every morning for two weeks and retrieve it at the end of the day during the two week period.

*\*It is my primary responsibility to support all students in their effort toward success in this course.*

(Teacher Signature) *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO MISS MILLER BY NO LATER THAN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Worth 5 pts)

PLEASE WRITE NEATLY.

**For student:**

I have read, understood, and I agree to fulfill the expectations for this course.

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(Student Signature) (Date)

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(Student Name – PRINT PLEASE)

**For parent/guardian:**

I have read, understood, and I agree to support my child/student in fulfilling the expectations for this course.

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(Parent Signature) (Date)

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(Parent Signature – PRINT PLEASE)

My child will have access to a computer. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No

1st Parent or guardian’s phone number(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2nd Parent or guardian’s phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS** - Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have questions or concerns. Thank you!