

# English IV

Mrs. O'Brien • Room D27 • hobrien@clintonpublic.net • <http://obrienseniorenghlish.wikispaces.com>

## Course Overview:



Welcome to English IV! Students in this course will work to gain competence and confidence in a range of language art skills.

During the first semester students will examine different rhetorical patterns evident in college-level essays and stories. Using these as models, students will learn a variety of strategies to help them develop a clear, cogent style in their written work. While most students recognize the basics of good writing, this course will help them to build on that knowledge, and through coaching and practice, learn to communicate more effectively.

During the second semester, students will build on previous learning to further develop their ability to analyze complex texts and to communicate what they learn from those texts in a variety of ways. Instruction will focus on the ways in which an author constructs an argument. Students will work both independently and cooperatively to hone their research, speaking, listening, and collaboration skills in preparation for the rigors of college-level work.



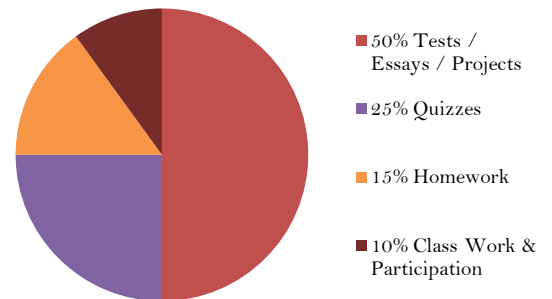
## Grading Scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	↓ -59

## Classroom Expectations:

**In addition to the school rules,**

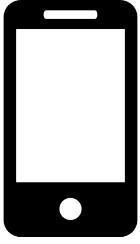
- You must come to class prepared each day. This means having the required text(s), your notebook, a class folder, a pen/pencil, and any homework that is due.
- Actively participate by listening to your classmates and teacher.
- Stay focused and involved by asking questions and expressing your opinions and insights on the materials being studied.
- **ALWAYS** treat your classmates with respect. Disrespect will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Respect for substitutes. Subbing can be an unpleasant experience; it should not be for people who sub in my classes.



**Students are encouraged to check their progress in Power School.**

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## Electronics in Class:



No cell phone use in class.

You are expected to actively participate in class. The course is designed to draw upon the experiences and insights of your peers and your participation makes for a richer experience for all. Class participation also means that you are fully present in class, not texting or looking at your cell phone. Unless informed otherwise, I expect that cell phones and other electronic devices will be silenced and out of sight. Texting or other cell phone use in class will result in a reduction of your participation points

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## Homework Policy:

Homework comes in all shapes and sizes. While you may not be assigned to complete written work on a nightly basis, you should regularly review the material covered in class. Additionally, when assigned reading, that reading should be done *actively and carefully* . . . take notes! Regardless what type of assignment you're given, homework is critical to your success in class. Please come to class prepared.

- Homework will be posted next to your class's name on the left-hand side of the board.
- **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Assignments are due at the start of class on the posted due date, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Carefully and actively read all assignments by the assigned due date(s). **Always expect a reading quiz.** The quizzes will be rather specific, designed to encourage close, active reading of the work. Scoring a 100 on a reading quiz will almost always require you to take notes on the assigned reading.
- All final drafts of essays/writing assignments **MUST** be typed and submitted to TurnItIn.com Not only do you have access to your Chromebook, but there are also computers available in the library and the computer lab. If you still have difficulty accessing a computer, please see me a.s.a.p.
- If you are absent on the day an essay or long-term assignment is due, you must find a way to get me that assignment by the close of the school day (2:10). Essays can be shared with me or emailed to me as an attachment at: [hobrien@clintonpublic.net](mailto:hobrien@clintonpublic.net). Any other type of long-term assignment that cannot be shared or emailed as an attachment (i.e. projects, posters, displays, etc.) must be brought to me by a parent, sibling, or friend by 2:10. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- If you have a printing issue, you may share or email your paper to me **BEFORE** school. I will print out any papers I receive in the morning. If you save an essay to your flash drive, you must print it out **BEFORE** class starts. Any work not printed out by the start of class is **LATE**, and **LATE WORK** will not be accepted.

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## **Attendance & Missed Assignments:**

Not surprisingly, class attendance will improve your performance! Please be on time and prepared. See the bulleted points below for more information:

- You are expected to be in class on time, every day. Work missed as a result of an unexcused tardy cannot be made up and will show as a “0” in Power School. If you are more than 10 minutes tardy to class without a pass, you will receive a cut.
- You are allowed **10 absences per semester**. After 10 absences, you will lose credit for the course unless you can provide the office with valid documentation of extenuating circumstances.

If you are absent from class, you have 1 week from the day you return to make up any missed work, including tests and quizzes. It is **YOUR** responsibility to obtain the work missed (notes, handouts, etc). There is a labeled folder for your class period where you will find any handouts that were distributed in class during your absence. Please be timely about retrieving these handouts.

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### **Required Materials:**

- Notebook or 3-ring binder with loose-leaf paper
- Folder for all handouts and assignments
- Required text(s)
- Pen / Pencil
- Chromebook / Google Account (this should be the clintonpublic.net account provided by the school)
- Good attitude, focused work ethic, persistence, curiosity

### **Honesty & Academic Integrity:**

Cheating, plagiarism, or falsification (lying) of any kind will not be tolerated. Students are cheating if they:

- Copy or allow to be copied any assignment by any method
- Use any unauthorized aid on quizzes, tests, or exams
- Steal, possess, or view a copy of a test beforehand
- Take someone else’s work and submit it as their own
- Scan, alter, or forge any school document
- Plagiarize, i.e. submit material written or designed by another without giving the author/creator credit or identifying the source; or submit work created by family, friends or tutors



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### **Communication:**



The class wiki will be updated frequently. Please check online for course materials and updates often.

<http://obrienseniorenenglish.wikispaces.com>



## A NOTE FROM YOUR TEACHER:

I am here to help you succeed this year in any way I can. If you need to see me outside of class, please set up a time to meet with me. I am available before and after school, and during F period.

**Syllabus Acknowledgement:** By signing, the student acknowledges and agrees to the procedures and expectations outlined within the syllabus. Further, the student agrees to come to class prepared with the supplies listed as well as a willingness to participate in the learning process.

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**Student Name** (print AND sign)

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**Parent/Guardian** (print AND sign)

Parent Contact Information:

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_