

7th Grade Pre-AP Language Arts Syllabus

Friendswood Junior High

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Purpose:

At the high school level, Advanced Placement (AP) courses serve two purposes:

- 1.) To prepare high school students for college level work
- 2.) To allow students the opportunity to receive college credit upon successful completing the exam

At the junior high level, Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) classes give students the opportunity to practice -at the appropriate level- skills that will enable them to be successful in Pre-AP and AP classes at the high school level. Pre-AP classes will expose students to the type of expectations and activities required by the AP program. Pre-AP classes lay the groundwork and foundation for success, not only in the AP program at the high school level, but also ultimately in college course-work itself.

Class description:

Pre-AP Language Arts includes content immersion in reading and writing. It is writing intensive. Students complete a major project/essay each grading period. Student performance is assessed for the analysis and synthesis level of thinking. Successful Pre-AP students are typically task-oriented, proficient readers who are able to set priorities with regard to time and responsibilities.

Pre-AP language arts course for FJH students will emphasize the following:

- Literature written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts
- A wide ranging vocabulary used appropriately and effectively
- A variety of sentence structures, including appropriate use of coordination and subordination
- A logical organization for writing pieces, enhanced by specific techniques to increase coherence, such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis

Upon completion of the Pre-AP language arts course, then, students should be able to:

- Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques
- Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing
- Demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings
- Write in a variety of genres and contexts, both formal and informal, employing appropriate conventions
- Move effectively through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review

Standard Classroom Policies & Procedures:

Silent Reading

Students are required to bring a library book (or books from home) to class **every day**. Students will be required to complete a Silent Reading Activity (SRA) outside of class for one fictional book each nine weeks to indicate reading comprehension and analysis of approved books.

Blogging

Each 9 weeks, all Pre-AP students will be required to blog on their LA teacher's TeacherWeb. Directions for each nine weeks will be given out in class. Students without Internet access will have an opportunity to blog during our class library time.

Grading System/Late Work

Major grades (major writings, projects, tests)	40%
Quizzes (vocabulary, grammar, etc.)	30%
Daily work (class work, homework)	30%

Retests will not be given for failing test/quiz grades.

Semester exams (December and May) will count as 10% of the semester average.

The late work policy will be as follows: one day late will deduct 50 points off the earned grade. After the second day, the work will not be accepted. Note: ANY assignment that has been given a due date of more than one week in advance will not be accepted late, even due to absences or illness. When this is the case, students must make arrangements to have the work turned in to the office/teacher or emailed (as an attachment) to the teacher by 3:40 P.M. the afternoon when due.

Monitoring Grades

Parents are encouraged to check student grades on-line through our district's website on a weekly basis. In order to foster independence in our students, if a question arises regarding a particular grade, communication between the parent and student should be the first step, rather than bypassing the student and initially contacting the teacher.

Absences/Make-up Work

When students are absent, it is their responsibility to ask for missing assignments. Students may come in before or after school, or during tutorials to make-up missing quizzes or tests. This needs to be scheduled *before* arriving at school for make-up assignments. A student has as many days to make up work as absent with a maximum of five days. Otherwise, no credit will be given for the assignment in question. Work that was assigned, prior to the student's absence is due upon return to school. The teacher may request that certain specific assignments be made up any time during the five day make-up period.

State law requires that a student be in attendance at least 90% of the time that a class is offered. If a student does not meet the attendance requirement, credit will be denied. Every 3 tardies that a student accrues to a class will be recorded as an absence when determining final exemptions and denial of credit. Students who are more than 10 minutes late to any one class will be considered absent.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:00-8:25. It may also be necessary for students to come for morning or afternoon tutorials on days other than Tuesday or Thursday. After scheduling this appointment with the designated teacher, students must get a hall pass for the date in question so that they can get into the appropriate building. Students must be prepared to ask questions and have a specific goal or academic objective in mind.

Language Arts Supplies

There are several items that are required for the Pre-AP class each day:

FJH organizer

book to read

notebook paper

5 subject spiral notebook to be used for journaling

pens

pencils

highlighters

grading pen,

Language Arts folder or section in another binder

Pre-AP Language Arts Handbook.

You will need the following items as instructed by your teacher:

index cards

orange vocabulary book

a two-pocket folder (this will be used as your writing folder and will remain in the classroom. Please bring this in as soon as possible.).

Coming to class without all required supplies will result in disciplinary action. Being unprepared for class hinders the learning environment for the individual, as well as for the rest of the class. *Optional supplies include Post-It notes of various sizes and Post-It flags.*

Contact Information

Students may check my website at www.teacherweb.com to see a weekly overview of curriculum and to check the class calendar for quiz, test, or project due dates. Feel free to e-mail me, or if you have questions or concerns that might be better suited at a parent conference, please contact me via email or phone (281-482-7818), and a conference will be scheduled.

Discipline

Any student attending class without homework or appropriate supplies will receive a detention to be served after school the following day. The first detention will be thirty minutes, and following ones will be longer. Any other infraction will be handled as it arises since this should not be an issue.

Pre-AP Handbook

This class is challenging, so when help is needed (and it will be needed), remember your options. Your teacher is available for tutorials at designated times and by appointment. Your lime-green handbook will also prove to be helpful, particularly regarding the AP skills we will be learning this year.

Student, Parent, and Teacher Responsibilities:

- **Student**---I agree to organize my time and efforts to successfully complete the Seventh Grade Pre-AP Language Arts course. I will utilize my teacher's TeacherWeb page to check class and homework assignments and receive NewsFlash updates. I will notify the teacher immediately if I fall behind in class readings or assignments. I understand that this class is a challenge and accept the fact that perfection is not expected, nor should it be expected.
- **Parent**---I agree to be familiar with the attached course description and to help my son/daughter organize study time in support of class assignments. I will sign up for the LA teacher's NewsFlash, and I will check the teacher's TeacherWeb page regularly. I will notify the teacher immediately following discussion with my child of any concerns that I have relating to the Pre-AP class or my child's progress. I understand that this class is a challenge and accept the fact that my child may not excel on every assignment.
- **Teacher**---I agree to teach the Pre-AP course in compliance with the College Board's intention and the district's requirements. I will keep my TeacherWeb page updated with assignments and handouts. Students and parents will be advised when work is not adequate. Student progress will be reported through the on-line grade system, the normal progress report each nine weeks, and the report card cycle.

I have read the course syllabus and understand my role in the success of this course. I have also taken the time to sign up for my teacher's NewsFlash.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____

Teacher signature _____

Please return this page with appropriate signatures.