



## English 10, 10H A/B - Mr. Smith

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### West Ranch High School Mission Statement

*“West Ranch High School is committed to challenging and motivating each student to achieve excellence and become a responsible and valuable member of society. Through relationships, rigor, and relevance, West Ranch High School promotes integrity, distinction, and vision.”*

Dear Students and Parents:

In supporting the West Ranch mission statement as well as the school’s Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes, English 10 A/B will provide a rigorous and challenging opportunity for students to not only continue to develop their literacy skills through reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critically thinking but also for students to see themselves as part of the larger world community, a culturally diverse and historically profound community. Students will be encouraged to develop a vision of their future so that while they may be exposed to what British poet Matthew Arnold discussed as “the best that has ever been thought or said,” more importantly they will learn that they have the ability, intelligence, and critical understanding to contribute and effect a change in their own lives and in the world in general.



*M. Smith*

### Class Policies & Procedures

#### Class Materials

*West Ranch High School promotes **responsibility** and expects its graduates to...*  
*...take ownership of their own learning and advancement*  
*...demonstrate a commitment to civic and environmental activism*  
*...honor and take pride in themselves, their campus, their community, their nation*

West Ranch High School Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

- **Learning Journal** – This journal needs to be with you IN CLASS everyday.
- **Learning Notebook / Binder** – You need to have a place to keep notes, handouts, and daily assignments. You will want to keep any informational handouts and notes all year (and perhaps beyond). You are expected to keep copies of your assignments until the end of the semester. Essays should be kept in your portfolio.
- **Textbooks/Novels** – At various times, we will read a novel, drama, or excerpts from a textbook that may be checked out from the library. Please be aware that you are responsible for the condition of those materials, and you will need to bring the texts to class on days required. (**NOTE: Novels have a \$15-20 replacement cost, and textbooks have an \$80-90 replacement cost.**)
- **Misc. Supplies** – Having access to post-its, small index cards, loose-sheet paper, a stapler (and staples), and scotch tape as home supplies are ideal to aid in the preparation and completion of class assignments.

## Classroom Behavior Expectations and Academic Integrity

*West Ranch High School emphasizes **integrity** and expects its graduates to...*  
*...conduct themselves with honor and civility in the classroom and in the community.*  
*...lead others through ethical example.*  
*...examine their choices and thereby improve their own character.*

West Ranch High School Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

### Classroom Etiquette

Please follow these basic policies for the good of the classroom community and the learning process:

- Remain seated and wait for dismissal by the teacher.
- No food or drink (except water) allowed in the classroom.
- Please remove hats when inside as a sign of respect.
- Refrain from note writing, passing of notes, completing other homework assignments, listening to i-pods, or texting messages unless classwork is completed and the instructor gives approval.
- Follow teacher requests and instructions.
- Vulgarity, Profanity, Defiance, and Aggressive acts as determined by the teacher are immediate cause for discipline step placement or class suspension.

### Attendance & Make-up Work

Attendance is important and is directly related to success in class. To be successful, students need to be in class, on time, and ready to learn. The school tardy policy and district attendance policy will be enforced in this class. Students should complete make-up assignments and tests as soon as possible after they return. The daily agenda and homework will be posted on the class website. In some cases, handouts will be linked so that they can be printed. Absences do not excuse students from submitting work on time since the block schedule provides an opportunity to get assignments ahead of time. Students may request extra time to complete the absent work.

### Discipline

If a student is unable to follow the etiquette rules stated above, the following steps and procedures will be taken:

1. Verbal reminder and/or Detention.
2. Student/teacher conference.
3. Parent contact.
4. Parent/teacher/counselor conference and two-day suspension from class.
5. Conference with Assistant Principal, two-day suspension, and student contract

Keep in mind that these are school and district guidelines and are in place to foster a healthy and positive learning environment.

### Academic Integrity Policy

West Ranch High School will consistently enforce the William S. Hart Union High School District Board Policy on Academic Integrity which is based on Educational Code 44806. The following actions will be deemed violations of Academic Integrity and/or Board Policy:

- When a student takes credit for work that is not their own or allows someone else to copy their work, this will be deemed a violation of our Academic Integrity Standards.
- If a student looks at another student's paper or sends or receives test data during or before a quiz or test or uses materials on a test or quiz that has not been approved, this is a breach of Board Policy.
- If a student plagiarizes someone's work, whether it is another student's or reference material, this will be a violation of Board Policy.

The following consequences may be enacted if a violation occurs:

- The parents of the student who has been academically dishonest will be notified of the event and a report will be filed in the student's permanent record
- The student will receive an automatic zero (failing grade) on the assignment or test; no make-up work will be offered to compensate for the zero.
- The student will be dropped from the National Honors Society (NHS) if the student is a member of that organization.
- The student will be dropped from the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) if the student is a member of that organization.
- The student may be removed from the class for one day at the teacher's discretion, according to the California Educational Code.
- The student may serve a four hour Saturday School.
- The student may face suspension from extra-curricular activities, including sports programs.

## Standards / Assessments & Grades

*West Ranch High School inspires its students to **excel** in all areas of development and expects its graduates to...*  
*...pursue worthy academic goals*  
*...strive for improvement intellectually, physically and creatively regardless of current achievement*  
*...commit to intellectual curiosity and increased knowledge*

West Ranch High School Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for college and career readiness provide the foundation for the knowledge, skills, and concepts of the English 10 curriculum. The CCSS for English Language Arts are rigorous, research- and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked outcomes that address the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The standards extend from college and career readiness standards in the following areas:

- Reading Informational Texts
- Reading Literary Texts
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

The curriculum embeds the Common Core standards throughout a series of units of study driven by essential questions and underlying guided focus questions.

### The Course Essential Questions:

What is the nature of humanity? What happens to humanity in the face of challenge?

### Quarterly Guided Essential Questions:

- What does it mean to be an individual? How do our actions impact others?
- What are the individual's rights and responsibilities? In the absence of rules, what is the nature of humanity?
- How does man respond to adversity?
- To what extent should we practice tolerance in an increasingly diverse world?

## Assessment and Grading Policies

All class assignments will be scored on rubrics using a 4 pt. scale that can be translated into a letter grade using the following scaled decimal-assigned score. Each assignment will be placed in one or more of seven weighed categories:

- Category 1: Reading of Literary Texts – 20% of the grade
- Category 2: Reading of Informational Texts – 20% of the grade
- Category 3: Informational Writing – 20% of the grade
- Category 4: Argumentative Writing – 20% of your grade
- Category 5: Language Study (grammar, mechanics, usage, sentence structure) – 10 % of grade
- Category 6: Listening and Speaking Skills – 5% of the grade
- Category 7: Life Skills/Professionalism: Effort, Timeliness, Participation, Organization, Collaboration, Leadership, Skills Practice, Reflection – 5% of the grade

4-Point Scale	Letter Grade
4	A+
3.75	A
3.5	A-
3.25	B+
3	B
2.75	B-
2.5	C
2.25	D
2 and below	F

Final course grades will be calculated for each category and then averaged together for one composite score in one of the following performance levels:

- Outstanding Achievement - Mastery / Approaching Mastery A
- Good Achievement - Proficiency B
- Satisfactory Achievement - Approaching Proficiency C
- Minimum Achievement - Below Proficiency D
- Unsatisfactory Achievement - Far Below Proficiency F

**Achieving Proficiency and Mastery** of the course standards is possible by taking advantage of the policies and procedures in place. A composite course average *below* a 2.25 scaled score does **NOT** demonstrate a sufficient proficiency (or a minimum attainment of the skills and knowledge expected by the standards); therefore, a student would receive a failing grade for the course due to unsatisfactory performance. Willing students can reach the 2.25 threshold through effort, motivation, and a positive attitude.

**Student progress** will be measured through multiple formative assessments that will drive instruction and student self-evaluations. **Homework** is a crucial aspect to any course of study to help students develop proficiency and mastery of the necessary skills and concepts identified by the standards; therefore, homework is assigned regularly, though not necessarily every day, in order that students may practice, understand, process, or review skills or concepts already learned in class. At times, the homework may introduce or preview new information or concepts. Additionally, assignments may differ from student to student based on an individual's readiness, choice, or need at any given time.

Assignments completed on time will have the greatest impact and provide the most benefit to one's learning. Since the value of an assignment can only be realized through completion of that assignment, **Late Work** will be accepted as long as it is submitted the next scheduled class meeting day. While assignments submitted late will be assessed for full credit against the assignment rubric, late assignments will lose points in the life skills / professionalism category of the grade. One or two assignments earning no points will not dramatically affect a class grade; however, any student consistently submitting work too late to receive credit should conference with the teacher to discuss time management, work habits, or other issues preventing assignments from being submitted timely. At the end of the semester, students will receive **Work Ethic points** based on their efforts to submit work timely as well as **Participation** points for engaging in positive learning activities.

Finally, as long as ALL assignments have been submitted, receiving credit or no credit, students will be able to take advantage of **additional Learning Opportunities by rewriting essays, retaking skills exams, and revising assignments** in order to achieve proficiency and/or mastery in class content. In fact, through learning journals, reflections, and progress charting, students will have sufficient opportunities to monitor, understand, and adjust their learning strategies throughout the year.

## Classroom Expectations

*West Ranch High School honors the **distinctions** that make each person unique and expects its graduates to...*

*...value diversity of all types*

*...strive to make themselves stand out positively in academic, personal and professional endeavors*

*...apply their unique strengths to problems to reach solutions*

West Ranch High School Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

**Class Culture** - Developing a class culture that is based on respect for each other is an important element to support powerful learning; therefore, the classroom environment will be a place for students to be themselves. At West Ranch High School our goal is to create a diversity-sensitive environment for equitable learning results for all students.

**Religious and Philosophical Issues** – Religion and philosophy are essential elements to any higher-order thinking college-bound course, particularly one as rich, diverse, and established as a course in world literature. Much of the material we study this year has sparked intellectual thought, controversy, reaction, revolution, persecution, change, and social reform. The material will be presented in the spirit in which it was intended, without censorship, the manipulation of facts, prejudice, bias, or the “dumbing down” of material. Please confide in me at an appropriate time if you feel discomfort with a topic.

## Teacher, Student, and Parent Roles -

As your **teacher**, here is what you can expect from me to help you succeed in this course:

1. I will be prepared to teach each day.
2. The content standards, daily objectives, and agenda will be written on the whiteboard daily.
3. I will teach the district-approved curriculum.
4. I will prepare interesting and engaging lessons.
5. I will be available during tutorial or at other times if you need extra help.

Here is what you, as a **student**, can do to be successful in the class:

1. Come to class on time, prepared to learn each day.
2. Complete your homework on time.
3. Identify a study buddy that you can contact if you are absent from class to get assignments or extra help.
4. Use the student planner/calendar that was given to you at summer check-in to organize your learning and keep track of your assignments.
5. Come to tutorial if you need help.
6. Take responsibility for your learning.

As **parents**, you can help your son/daughter by:

1. Taking an interest in his/her studies.
2. Talking with him/her each night about what he/she learned in school and ask to see his/her notebooks.
3. Helping him/her develop good time management strategies.
4. Working with him/her to set realistic goals for success.
5. Monitoring his/her class performance for difficulties he/she may be having. Please intervene immediately – contact the teacher and encourage your child to attend tutorial (8:00 a.m. – 8:25 a.m. each morning) or with the teacher at another time.
6. Attending Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings and other school events.

## Closing

*West Ranch High School encourages students to find **value** in themselves and in others and expects its graduates to...*

*...go beyond the classroom and apply their education and skills to their careers and lives*

*...make important contributions to their community*

*...realize that new experiences and relationships can enrich their lives*

West Ranch High School Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

*West Ranch High School instills students with a **vision** and expects its graduates to...*

*...take initiative in pursuing noble post-secondary goals*

*...find ways to make their high school experience meaningful*

*...apply the connections between different academic disciplines*

West Ranch High School Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

I look forward to working with you this semester. I am dedicated to helping you succeed. If you find that you need extra help, please come to my classroom for tutorial (8:00 – 8:25 a.m.) any day. I can also meet with you at other times during the day if you let me know. *Let's go wildcats!*

*M. Smith* 😊