



# EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

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## High School Composition

**“A disciplined, structured learning environment that continually models and supports the values of perseverance, responsibility, respect, honesty, integrity, and citizenship.”**

### About the Course:

This course has a main goal of improving writing skills to be used going forward at Eagle Ridge Academy and beyond! Specifically, we will focus on the ability to write a clear, concise, cohesive, and effective essay by breaking it down into manageable steps from topic development to researching and citing sources in MLA format, with special attention placed on the editing/reviewing portion of writing.

### Daily Routine:

The typical routine for this course is a journal topic/prompt plus time to start the class period writing followed by either grammar instruction, essay/writing instruction, or guided work time for drafting, editing, or spelling practice. The daily happenings of class are listed on the website for this course. **Make note that this year students will not be allowed to leave the room in the first and last 10 minutes of the class period** to use the bathroom, get a drink, grab something from his or her locker, etc. Exceptions may be made by teacher discretion.

### Other Objectives of This Course:

- Keep a daily journal in response to the question or prompt on the board (if absent, students are responsible to make up that journal entry on their own), and each entry will be at least ten complete sentences
- Complete worksheets and text book exercises to reinforce proper mechanics
- Participate in writing/editing peer review workshops
- Complete several essays throughout the semester for the writing class
- Take regular spelling tests to review commonly misspelled words for mastery.

### Required Materials:

Please bring the following materials with you to class every day.

- Planner
- **2 NOTEBOOKS!**
  - 1 **single subject** notebook for journaling
  - 1 notebook for note-taking/assignments
- Folder for holding handouts and reading packets
- *Grammar for Writing* textbook
- Pencil and pen with colored ink for editing and correcting

### Examinations:

There will be one exam scheduled for this course. This exam will test your ability to use correct grammar, purposefully and meaningfully, identify misspelled words, compose different styles of essays, edit essays, and cite sources in MLA format. You will also have several grammar/spelling quizzes throughout the year.

**Writing Assignments:**

1. You will write short journal entries daily. I will grade journals based on the topic being covered, requirements met, grammar, and creativity. Rather than letter grades, each journal will receive one of the following: 3 for excellent, 2 for satisfactory, 1 for unsatisfactory, 0 for unacceptable. These will be entered on Infinite Campus at the end of each quarter.
2. You will write three major essays over the course of the semester. In addition, you will be expected to work on essays for other classes during your Composition class and complete a research paper.

**Spelling:**

You will have weekly spelling tests, for which you will be expected to copy the correct spellings and study for. Spelling tests will be administered every Friday with the exception of the first week.

**Grading:**

You will get a weekly participation grade in addition to being graded on your papers, journals, quizzes, and final exam. Remember, your final exam makes up 20% of your final semester grade. Also, keep in mind that participation includes active listening skills, positively contributing to class discussions and activities, engaging in peer review workshops and using your time well in class. **Be prepared for Grammar and editing quizzes throughout the semester.**

**Homework:**

There is never an excuse for not having work completed, short of being extremely ill. You must be prepared and have all work completed when you come to class. Students are responsible for checking the website and the calendar in the room for their homework assignment and then writing it in their planners.

**Late Work:**

Because all daily homework is graded on completion, **no late work will be accepted**, unless you are absent excused. If you speak with me in advance, regarding major writing assignments, extensions may be granted **with teacher discretion, but do not expect an extension**. All work is due at the beginning of class on the due date. If you have work that needs to be printed off from your email or a flash drive, it **MUST** be brought to me **BEFORE** class starts. Emailing me assignments is fine as well, but they must be received by me **BEFORE** class begins and be in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word. If you have an unexcused absence or suspension, work assigned prior to the absence/suspension is due upon your return. Work that was assigned during the unexcused absence/suspension should be turned in within three days of the absence/suspension and will receive a **maximum** score of 50%.

**Course Weights:**

- 20% Participation
- 20% In-Class Activities/Journaling
- 20% Grammar and spelling Examinations
- 40% Final Writing Assignments
- Note: final semester exam will be 20% of your semester grade

*Traditional Four Point Grading Scale*

Grade	Point Value	Mastery Level (percents)
A	4.0	93+
A-	3.7	< 90-93
B+	3.3	< 90-87
B	3.0	< 87-83
B-	2.7	< 83-80
C+	2.3	< 80-77
C	2.0	< 77-73
C-	1.7	< 73-70

D+	1.3	< 70-67
D	1.0	< 67-63

D-	0.7	< 63-60
F	0	< 60

**Calendar:**

	Week	Grammar/Topic	Spelling	Writing Assignment
<b>Q1</b>	8/28-8/31	<i>Why study grammar? Expectations for peer review</i>	<i>none</i>	Definition Essay
	9/3-9/7	Punctuation	Week 1	Definition Essay
	9/10-9/14	Punctuation	Week 2	Definition Essay
	9/17-9/21	Parts of Speech	Week 3	Definition Essay
	9/24-9/28	Parts of Speech (quiz)	Week 4	Argumentative Essay
	10/1-10/5	Researching – Finding good sources	Week 5	Argumentative Essay
	10/8-10/12	Parts and Purposes of a Sentence	Week 6	Argumentative Essay
	10/15-10/19	Direct and Indirect Objects	Week 7	Argumentative Essay
	10/22-10/26	Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives (quiz)	Week 8	Argumentative Essay
	10/29-11/2	Peer Review/Work Time	Week 9	Presentations
<b><i>Spring Break</i></b>				
<b>Q2</b>	11/5-11/9	Phrases /Work Time (quiz)	Week10	Presentations
	11/12-11/16	Clauses	Week 11	Research Paper

	11/19-11/30	Clauses	<i>none</i>	Research Paper
	12/3-12/7	Clauses/ Types of Sentences (quiz)	Week 12	Research Paper
	12/10-12/14	Verb Usage and Subject/Verb Agreement	Week 13	Research Paper
	12/17-12/20	Verb Usage and Subject/Verb Agreement	Week 14	Research Paper
	1/2-1/4	Choosing the right word/Review	<i>none</i>	Research Paper
	<b>1/7-1/18</b>	<b><i>Review and Finals</i></b>	<b><i>none</i></b>	<b><i>none</i></b>

**\*\*\*Please note that this is a rough estimate of the time we will spend on each topic and text. Time may be extended or cut depending on the discussions.**

#### **Academic Honesty:**

The Academic Honesty Policy applies to this course. The policy explains the bounds of acceptable and unacceptable behavior and practices. Specifically it states, "Scholastic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a school assignment or test, plagiarism, or collusion, including the use of picture phones or other technology to accomplish this end." **I will especially enforce the provisions regarding plagiarism**, and will give a failing grade to any student who presents plagiarized material as his or her own work.

#### **Attendance:**

In order to benefit from the writing strategies, process, class discussions, and peer review, your attendance in class is required. Copying someone else's notes is a poor alternative to being in the classroom yourself, short of you being ill. **Please attend class regularly and be on time.** I will start class without you, and you will be responsible for making sure you make up the time.

#### **Technology:**

Technology is not only a helpful way to take notes, but will also be available regularly either via access to the computer lab or via the computer cart in the classroom. These are the technology guidelines:

- Technology is for individual, not group, use.
- I must be able to see what you are doing. Do not change the screen or turn the screen away from me.
- Technology must be used for class work, not games or surfing the internet.
- You must be able to keep up with everyone else taking notes; I will not wait for you because you do not know how to use the technology.

- You get one warning; after that you lose the privilege of using technology for the rest of the semester/year (as appropriate)
- You may bring in your own device for work days, but remember you may not be able to get online, which could hinder your ability to research.

**Things to Note:**

1. **Take careful notes in class!** Not only do notes help you adequately review the material covered in class, they also help you prepare for quizzes, exams, and work on essays.
2. **Participation in Composition class is graded weekly!** Participating means actively taking notes during grammar and writing instruction, responding to questions, engaging in thoughtful discussion of essay strengths and weakness, being thoughtful and open during peer review sessions, and using work time effectively.
3. If you have a question about class material or assignments, ask me about it, either in or outside of class. **You will have to take the first step**—ask me, email, or stop by to see me.