

August 16, 2010,

Dear Parents and Students,

Honors Composition and Research is a rigorous course designed to ensure a strong foundation in language arts skills that will prepare our students for AP Language and AP Literature. By studying the style and organization of model writers, the students have opportunities to think, compose, and communicate, drawing on many skills that take time and effort to acquire. Students derive satisfaction and a growing confidence as they become more capable writers. The study of grammar facilitates their competencies in writing, speaking, and analyzing by providing a vocabulary for discussing sentence structure, mechanics, and usage. The teaching of research skills and documentation form is a substantial component of the course. The end of the course culminates in comprehensive research projects that integrate all the language skills in coherent, compelling, and well-reasoned products.

The following statements will clarify classroom policies:

- Students should be familiar with and observe the various rules and policies in the student handbook: absentee, tardy, discipline, cheating, food and drink.
- Students should schedule their time carefully to help them meet the demands of the course. If absent, students should call a classmate to get information on further assignments and check with me upon their return.
- Students should be in seats ready to begin work when the tardy bell rings.
- Students should bring proper materials (notebook, textbook, homework, pencil, etc.) to class on time every day.
- Students are responsible for work missed from absences or school-related activities. Upon returning to school, students have one week to make up any missed assignments. Students who are absent the day a paper is due should have the paper the day they return.
- Homework that is checked at the beginning of class is not accepted late.
- Grades on essays, projects, and other assignments will be dropped one letter grade for each day late.

Grading Policy:

Daily Grades (WRP, grammar, HW)-Count one time

Quizzes-Count one time

Essays-Count two times

Small projects-Count two times

Revisions-Count three times--Please note that revisions are separate assignments, and the revision grade does not replace the original essay grade.

Large projects-Count three times

Research Papers-Count four times

A research paper manual, *Writing Research Papers* by James D. Lester, is a text that may be purchased for this class. You may purchase the eleventh edition, while supplies last, for \$23.00, or you may purchase the twelfth edition, while supplies last, for \$30.00. Cash or a check payable to Dorman High School is due as soon as possible.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me by e-mail at mooredt@spart6.org or call me at 582-4347. My planning period begins at 10:00 and ends at 11:30. I am looking forward to teaching your son or daughter and know we will have a successful year.

Lori Moore
Honors Composition and Research