

Course Syllabus
Mrs. Debbie Johnson
English I

Basic Information

This is the first course in the required four years of English at Carterville High School. My e-mail address is djohnson@cartervillelions.com . My classroom is located in the “new wing” in room 109. It is wonderful having both air conditioning , a window, and back into a full-sized classroom!

Class Information

I expect each student to come prepared for class **daily**. Please expect to **ALWAYS** need to have pen/pencil and paper. The textbooks we use for Freshman English are Basic English Composition and Exploring Literature. The textbooks are quite expensive; please do not lose them! We also have spelling on pretty much a weekly basis, which is designed to build spelling and writing skills. The last feature we work on quite often is our writing ability. Essays and creative writing are a part of our high school curriculum. As far as assignments go, the work is geared for each students’ particular needs, strengths and weaknesses. The lessons are aligned with what is expected through the Illinois Learning Standards.

Course Description

The purpose of English I is to have the foundation needed to be functional in the areas of writing, reading, and spelling. We cover in this introductory course such things as reading for information and enjoyment, correct writing ability and correct spelling in everyday use. In the text English Composition we develop practical writing skills. It initially emphasizes the correct writing of sentences, then paragraphs, followed by reports and other projects. The ability to write in clear, correct language is an important skill for most jobs and everyday situations. In Exploring Literature, the students are given a variety of both authors and writing styles. We cover such diverse areas as short stories, poetry, plays, non-fiction and tall tales. Vocabulary development and reading comprehension are stressed.

Course Policies

If a student is given an assignment, expect that it will be graded. Most all activity is handled in the classroom, so rarely will outside homework be given. Each assignment is graded by the amount of points it was worth. (Twenty questions = twenty points) Points are deducted for missed or incomplete answers, or not following the directions. After the first month, five points are deducted if their name is not on their paper. Tests are graded by the percentage of 100...with a perfect test being given at 100%. There are two weekly spelling grades with the final test on the last day of the week. Usually the work graded is all written, until we have assignments in reading that may have a class participation grade. In the class participation grade, they will be given full points if they have been an active participant in the listening and discussion. Points are deducted for inappropriate behavior during this assignment. The grading scale is what Carterville High School uses, unless an adjusted grading scale is a part of the student’s educational accommodations..

Academic Success

In order for each student to be successful, they need to use their time in class to build their English knowledge base. They need to come to class prepared to learn, and expect to be taught. If they miss class, they are expected to see me the day they return to see what they've missed. I allow extra days to make up their work on an individual basis, but they will be told when I expect them to have their work in. If they do not make up their work by the assigned date, points will be deducted. Students tend to feel overwhelmed if they miss very much, so it is imperative they are here daily in order to show their best effort. If they are tardy for my class I deal with this on an individual basis. If they can physically get here on time I expect them to do so! As far as their academic work is concerned, I expect each student to try their best and do their own work. Cheating is not tolerated, and a 0 will be given.

Note to Parents

Students are in my classroom for a variety of reasons, and much of what they are expected to accomplish will be on an individual basis. Therefore when parents look at STI home, I want them to realize **all** assignments are posted, but not all assignments will be for their child. It may say "English I" as the class, but students within that class may not all have the same assignment. I appreciate the chance to work with your child for the next 4 years. You have given me an opportunity I am grateful for, and value.

Class Rules and Information

Mrs. Debbie Johnson

- 1) Treat yourself and others with respect. This includes your classmates, your peers and all adults.**
- 2) Have all materials needed for class. (This includes any regular ed class you may be taking...PE clothes included!)**
- 3) Food and drink are no-no's. We will tell you if there is a special occasion in which we allow it. Please eat all meals in the cafeteria.**
- 4) Gum is ok as long as it is chewed. Just don't abuse either the gum or others by popping, bubbles, etc....and put it only in the trash when finished.**
- 5) Only appropriate language is used at all times.**
- 6) Enjoy the opportunity to learn all you can while a student at CHS. Get involved in the many activities CHS offers.**
- 7) Expect to follow the rules as set forth in the CHS student handbook.**

Warnings and/or detentions will be given for breaking these rules. Repeated breaking of rules will call for additional measures. This could possibly include calling your parent, ACR, or change in special education placement.