

Overview: Grades, Rules, and Routines

Welcome to English 9! The point of this course is to help you become an independent reader by improving your reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. This will help you to understand reality and to explain it.

Reading is more than decoding words. It's about digging deep into the meaning of them. That's because reading requires thinking. It also requires careful analysis of the text that you are reading. (A text is a book, story, poem, speech, essay, film, video, billboard, etc.)

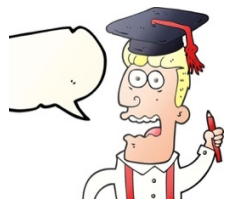
The course assignments, homework and poetry packages, quizzes, presentations, and exams will help you focus on the meaning of what you read. You will do this, in large part, by writing about what you read. That's because, according to Juno Pappas, "writing is thinking made visible" (p. 44, 2015). By this, Pappas means that writing is a powerful and useful tool for thinking – a tool for getting what you want and need.

Rigorous learning requires time and focus. That's why this course is grounded in using time productively. We start on time. We end on time. In between starting and ending, we do the following: Read, write, repeat. Read, write, repeat. Read, write, repeat. Read, write, repeat. Read, write, repeat. Read, write, repeat. And so on.

We also use time for sharing feedback on the quality of your work and for discussing the ideas and skills together as a class. Feedback is provided through one-on-one conferences (with the teacher), with informal progress reports provided for you and your family, and self-assessment assignments. Assessment is also done through quizzes, tests, exams, and feedback on assignment using rubrics.



Please be on time. Before the chime rings, you should have your materials ready (lined paper, notebook, pencil, and folder at your desk) and be at your seat. When the chime rings, please immediately start working on the speed write (we do this almost every day). If you are late (at the start of class), please quietly wait outside the class for the first 2 minutes (Mr. Kertes will open the door and let students in once attendance is recorded).



On regular days, the routine looks like this:

- Speed Write (3 minutes)
- Class Novel Reading (7 minutes – teacher reads to the class)
- Lesson or activity (56 minutes – with a 5-minute break around the halfway point) (breaks are good time to take your puppy out for a pee)
- Pack up (1 minute)
- Silent Reading (Mon/Fri) or Learning Journal (Wed) (8 minutes)



On long days, the routine varies but often looks like this:

- Speed Write (first 3 minutes)
- Instructional block:
 - Two 5-minute breaks (about once every hour) are provided
 - On film days, there is usually not a break (but there is time to make popcorn before the movie starts)
- Pack up (1 minute)
- Followed by either journal or silent reading to end of class



Room 308 is a puppy-free room. Puppies, and all other distraction devices, are banned from room 308. Make sure that your puppy (or other distraction device) is always invisible and silent. If your puppy becomes visible (or makes a sound) it will be put in the "Puppy Pound" for the rest of that period (or until the break). Unless your puppy becomes a behaviour issue (or comes out during an assessment), there are no additional consequences for your puppy being visible (or for making a sound) in the classroom.

	<p>Please, no backpacks. And clean up your mess. There is no room for backpacks. Please only bring a book (in case you want something to do if you finish early), lined paper, pencil (pen is okay as well), and notebook (binder). You may bring food and drinks (so long as they are not a distraction). If you routinely leave food wrappers or other garbage around your desk, or if your backpack is in the aisle, you will be required to store your backpack elsewhere (i.e. in your locker) and you may be prohibited from bringing food or drink to class (but water is always allowed). While backpacks are not allowed, if stored out of the way and your desk is clean (no mess), they will likely be ignored. No problem means no problem. (The key: Keep it safe. Keep it under your seat. And keep it clean.)</p>
	<p>If you are late to class, you will write in your journal for the full 5 minutes of the break. Break ends when the chime rings. If you are a little late from break, please quickly and quietly enter the room so that the class is not disrupted. If you are more than a little late, please enter quietly (try not to be noticed when returning to class). Depending on how late you are from a break and how distracting you are, you may be required to miss the next break. (The key: Be reasonable. Be quick. And don't be a distraction.)</p>
	<p>Be extra careful with your phone or puppy on test and exam days. If your phone is visible (or used) during a test or exam, you must redo that portion of the test or exam on the next Make-Up or Catch-Up Day. Out of fairness to all students, this rule is strictly enforced. On test days, phones must be housed in your locker or in the Puppy Pound.</p>
	<p>Class (almost) always starts with a 3-minute speed write. Be sure to format your speed write correctly (double spaced, nothing in the margins) and keep your speed writes in the correct folder. Speed writes are required, even on days when you are absent. You will complete any missing speed writes during the break when you are back at school. Speed writes must be completed in-class (and are date-stamped to show this).</p>
	<p>You must complete (almost) all assignments and assessments in the classroom. Most assignments must be completed in the classroom. This ensures that you will have support. It also allows for more time for individual conferences with students and for small group supports during work periods. Most writing assignments are done in-class, and most assignments are paper-and-pencil only (meaning that typed and printed assignments are not accepted). Time is provided for students to read and write in-class. (Homework, however, is generally done at home or somewhere else – outside of the classroom.)</p>
	<p>If you have late or missing work, you must work on it during the break – until all your work is completed. This includes quizzes, homework assignments, speed writes, and assignments. It does not include tests, quizzes, presentations, and film viewings. You are also expected to attend Catch-Up Afternoon (and/or Make-Up Day to complete work.</p>
	<p>If you need to make up a film screening, you can do this on a Make-Up Day. The schedule is posted after each regular screening and on the course website. A list of students who will need to attend the next screening is provided. Films are treated as “texts” in this course, and they are part of the required “reading” for the course. Viewing these films helps you prepare for major assignments and assessments. They are schoolwork.</p>

Visit the course website at TomKertes.ca for PDFs of the following course policies and information:

- English 9 Outline
- English 9 Overview: Grades. Rules, and Routines
- English 9 Calendar
- English 9 Progress Report (Marks and Grades Overview)
- English 9 Models and Frameworks
- English 9 Stuff-to-Learn List
- Discussing Ideas in English 9 Class