

5th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Course Overview, SY 2008-09

Major Topics of Study

Grammar / Parts of Speech

Spelling

Mechanics

Writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, presentation)

6 + 1 Traits of Writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice sentence fluency, conventions)

Daily Language Review

Spelling units will begin on Monday and conclude on Friday of that week with a turn-in of the packet and a test. Spelling units will usually only be done on weeks when ELA classes meet three times (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). However, due to schedule constraints (excessive holidays, snow days) we will occasionally begin a spelling unit on Tuesday and carry over to the following week.

Grading System

Grades will be computed electronically and will be derived from the following sources, with the following weights:

Homework: 20%

Classwork/Participation: 20%

Quiz: 30 %

Test: 30 %

Homework Policy

Homework will be assigned periodically. When assigned, it should be turned in during the next class meeting. Assignments turned in one day late will be given a -10 pt. penalty. Assignments turned in two days late will be given a -20 pt. penalty. After two days from original due date, no credit will be granted. Late assignments may be turned in during Seminar or after school. In the event of lengthy absences, an appropriate schedule for make-up work will be coordinated between the teacher and student.

Extra Credit opportunities will periodically be made available to students by the teacher. However, student requests for extra credit will not be granted. Students need to take advantage of Extra Credit when offered.

Daily Expectations

Students are expected to come to class prepared with the required school supplies (pencil, red pen, highlighter, loose-leaf paper in binder, and any packets that have been given out in previous classes and are still being used) and their completed homework. ***Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers and get forgotten supplies once the bell rings.***

All papers submitted for a grade need to be written in cursive handwriting (few exceptions granted) and have the standard 5th grade heading. Papers submitted without the standard heading will lose 5 points. The standard heading is 4 lines and should be written in the upper right hand corner of assignments: Name, Date, Class (ex: GOLD 3 or GOLD 4), Assignment.

Students are expected to write their homework in their Student Agenda. Parents should check this nightly.

Being unprepared is disruptive to the class, and repeat offenders will be handled in accordance with the West Point Middle School discipline policy.

Discipline

In response to disruptive behavior (to include missing homework and supplies), the following steps will be taken in succession:

1. I will conference with the student after school or during recess.
2. The student will receive a classroom consequence for their behavior.
3. I will contact the parent via email or telephone and, if necessary, set up a conference.
4. I will fill out a Discipline Referral Form and submit it to Mr. Rudy.