

Creative Writing

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Advanced English 8 and Creative Writing
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"If a story is in you, it has to come out."
William Faulkner

"Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart."
William Wordsworth

"Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."
Mary Oliver

This class is a community of young writers, and it's our responsibility to do everything we can to help each other improve. I expect you to bring curiosity and good will to class. Your critiques—both written and verbal—should be honest, respectful, exploratory, and thoughtful. The goal of this class is to make you both a better writer and a better reader, and those two skills are intimately intertwined. Doing the assigned reading and the craft exercises I've assigned is an essential part of your growth. The more meticulous, sensitive, and generous-minded a reader you become, the better your own prose will be.

Grading System: Each assignment is given a point value.

- **Assessments:** this includes (but is not limited to) tests, projects, essays, and quizzes. These are weighted more heavily than assignments.
- **Assignments:** this includes (but is not limited to) homework, class work, group work, projects, participation, and discussion. These are weighted less heavily than assessments.
- Note: all grades are tied to standards.

Grading Scale:

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 - 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 65 - 69 = D
- 0 - 64 = F

Classwork / Homework: All work is to be submitted on time.

- **Calendar:** Please consult the calendar on Schoology for information about the month's assignments.
- **Make-up Work:**
 - If you have an excused absence and miss an assignment, you have up to three days to turn in the completed assignment.
 - If you know you are going to be absent and have made arrangements with the school, then your completed work is due upon your arrival back to school.

- If you are present on the day of the assignment's due date but absent for class, you must submit your work digitally. Failure to do so will result in being treated as late work and standard penalties will apply.
- If you are absent for the full day, you must email your assignment before the end of the school day and submit a hard copy upon your return to school.
- **Missing Assignment:**
 - Marked as "MA" in the gradebook, which is a zero until it is turned in.
 - When a student has two or more MAs, disciplinary measures will be taken to address the issue.
- **Consequences for late work:**
 - Late work will result in consequences (homework room, point deduction, before or after school meeting with the teacher, etc.).

Punctuality: Participation in class begins with the bell. Be on time and ready for class each day.

- **What constitutes a tardy?** Being late for class without a written excuse.
- **Consequences for tardiness or other rule infractions:** Warning, Parent Contact, Detention, Referral to Administration

Required Class Materials:

- *642 Things to Write About: Young Writer's Edition*
- A spiral-bound journal
- 1.5" binder
- Writing utensils

Missing Materials: Students should bring the necessary materials to class. Not having materials constitutes a "tardy." If this becomes an issue that continues to affect instructional time, disciplinary measures will be taken.

Technology in the Classroom: "The creation of a large and varied technology environment demands that technology usage be conducted in legally and ethically appropriate ways, consistent with the Purpose Statement and instructional goals of the Mountain Brook school district . . . Thus, it is the intention of the Mountain Brook Schools that all technology resources be used in accordance with any and all school system policies and procedures." – Mountain Brook Schools Code of Conduct

- **Chromebooks:** For student use. Any abuse of the privilege will follow the school-sanctioned repercussions.
- **School Google Account:** You will utilize your school Google account to communicate with the teacher, access Google Drive, store documents on Google Drive, create and share documents via Google Docs, and collaborate with your peers on shared Google Docs.
- **Schoology:** I require students to use Schoology almost every single night. In my Schoology course, you can find a helpful calendar, homework assignments, additional practice, study materials for tests, and various resources required to bring to class.
- **Email:** Students should check their school email often.
- **Cell phones:** Cell phones are not admissible for students to have in class.