



# English 1 honors



## Course Description

Welcome to English 1 Honors with Mr. Benton! The purpose of this course is to provide relevant, rigorous instruction in English language skills including reading, writing, observing, and communicating in the content areas of literature and language. Visit [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org) for more information on the new ninth grade standards being covered in Pinellas County this year.

Enrolled students will:

- construct meaning from a range of rigorous texts (literary, technical, informative)
- use process writing to communicate complex ideas in a precise, organized, fluent manner
- respond critically and aesthetically to a variety of literary forms
- use his/her language skills for effective written, visual, and oral communication
- foster an ever-growing vocabulary through reading, discussion, and word study
- emerge prepared with the necessary literacy skills for future advanced courses and college

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## Classroom Policies

### Make-up Work

It is completely the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work and to set up with Mr. Benton a time before or after school to make up quizzes, tests, notes, or other information missed due to an absence. If a student has missed a class, he/she should refer to the class schedule (visible in class and on the class website).

However, if the student has questions about the assignment, has missed notes, or has missed a quiz or test, he/she will have to talk with Mr. Benton before or after (but not during) class. If a student is absent for a quiz, he or she has exactly one week to make it up.



### Hall Passes

Students are allowed **3 hall passes** for every 6 week grading period. Students may use those hall passes at times of their own choosing. Unused hall passes will be converted into bonus points that will slightly boost that student's grade at the end of each grading period. Once the 3 passes have been used by the student, he/she will **not** be permitted to leave class for any reason. *Students: use your freedom wisely!*

### Late Work

Homework that is one day late will receive a **50%-off** penalty. Work that is over one day late will **not** be accepted for a grade. This policy is strictly enforced. The **exceptions** to this rule are *some* long-term assignments (e.g. journal assignments, typed papers) for which 15-40% (the percentage increases throughout the year at the teacher's discretion) will be deducted for each late day. Long-term assignments (i.e. journals, papers) are due on the due date regardless of whether or not a student is present.



## Grade Monitoring



Please keep in mind that a student's grades are visible online through Pinellas County's Focus interface ([focus.pcsb.org](http://focus.pcsb.org)). It is the student's responsibility to keep a close eye on his or her grades in this class. Most assignments will be entered into the gradebook within a week. Some lengthier assignments (such as journals and papers) may take up to two weeks to return.



## Computer Access

Throughout the school year, students will be required to type up several journals and papers. If a computer is not available at home, computers will be available before and after school in the SPHS Library and in Mr. Benton's classroom.

## Tutoring

Mr. Benton is available every Monday after school specifically for tutoring in regards to English 1 Honors (and other days are available upon request).

Students: If you start to feel that you are falling behind in this class, act immediately! I'm here to help.



## Academic Honesty

The nature of honors-level work often requires that students complete graded assignments outside of class. Students are expected to complete work without the assistance of others unless Mr. Benton specifically allows collaboration on an assignment. Sharing work with another student, "working together", "just trying to help", using any other student's work for reference (without express written permission from Mr. Benton), or using any other human's ideas – even from an online source – without specifically citing the source in proper MLA format will result in a "zero" on the assignment and a possible referral to an administrator.



## **Necessary Supplies**

Students must come prepared to class every day! Supplies include:

### Every Day

- Composition book (college rule *preferred*)
- Notebook paper (college rule *preferred*)
- Blue or black pens
- Highlighters (2-3 *different* colors)
- Student planner (an organizer or agenda)\*
- Folder to store notes, handouts, and work\*

### As Needed

- A set of colored pencils or markers
- Blank copy paper
- Currently assigned reading  
(See the book list on the next page.)

\*the folder and planner may certainly be used for classes other than English as well



## English 1 Honors Book List

Students will also need to obtain a copy of each text that we will be covering throughout the school year. Not having a book in class will result in a loss of Life Skill points. If finances are a problem, please see Mr. Benton outside of class time. The five texts that students will need throughout the school year are listed below:



**Great Expectations**

Title: *Great Expectations*  
Author: **Charles Dickens**

This novel is needed by early September.



**ANIMAL FARM**

Title: *Animal Farm*  
Author: **George Orwell**

This novel is needed by mid-November.



**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**

Title: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*  
Translator: **Burton Raffel**

This book is available in several different translations; however, the required version is the translation by Burton Raffel.

This poem is needed by mid-December.



**Romeo and Juliet**

Title: *Romeo and Juliet*  
Author: **William Shakespeare**

Any edition of the play is acceptable as long it contains the original text and not only a simplification.

This play is needed by mid-January.



**To Kill a Mockingbird**

Title: *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
Author: **Harper Lee**

This novel is needed by late April.

## BentonEnglish.com

Visit the class website often for the weekly class schedule, downloadable versions of handouts and assignments, digital audio and text versions of assigned reading, and other useful info and links. This site is for parents as well as students!

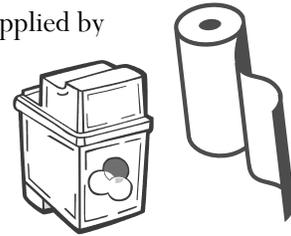
When contacting Mr. Benton by email (at [bentonro@pcsb.org](mailto:bentonro@pcsb.org)) or through the website, please provide your name and period in the subject area of the e-mail so it is easier to quickly identify you.



### Wish List

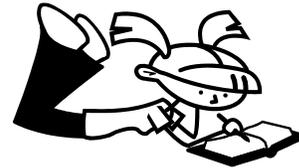
There are some supplies that are needed for the classroom that are not supplied by the school. Some of these needs are:

- **Printer cartridges** (Hewlett Packard #21 and 22)
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Tissue boxes



### Mr. Benton's Tips for a Great Year ...

- Do not allow assignments to pass you by. *Everything counts!*
- Don't be absent. Missing class will seriously affect your grade. Vacations and appointments need to be planned around your school schedule. If you wake up and don't feel well – come to school anyway! Unless you are in the hospital, vomiting, or have a high fever – you need to *be here*.
- Find a way to *get involved*. It will make a big difference in the type of college you get into and the scholarships you could earn. It will also make a huge difference in how much you enjoy school. Colleges seem to be moving away from students who are involved in a million things to students who started their freshmen year in a sport or club and continued all the way through. Do not put this off because it will affect your future.
- When it comes time to apply for college, *ninth grade counts* on your transcripts. If you don't like a subject or a teacher – you need to tough it out! That's no reason to ruin your own future. Seniors say over and over again that their future changed because of what they chose *not* to do their freshmen year.
- Get to know your *guidance counselor*, and make sure they know who you are! This person will be filling out recommendation forms for you when college applications roll around.
- Middle school is *over*. Now you have more freedom and more choices. No one holds your hand anymore. Blowing off assignments could cause you to fail. Colleges are *very* interested in your overall GPA, so every class is important. Enjoy your new freedom, but realize that you also have new responsibilities.





# English I honors Syllabus Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

After reading the syllabus, please sign, complete, detach, and return this page by **Friday** (January 25<sup>th</sup>). Please keep the rest of the syllabus in your English folder throughout the school year.

## Syllabus Agreement

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and shall fully submit to and willfully comply with all of the policies, rules, requirements, and consequences covered throughout this syllabus for Mr. Benton's English 1 Honors course.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent Info (please fill in all that apply)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: (    ) -    -

Evening phone: (    ) -    -

Email address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: (    ) -    -

Evening phone: (    ) -    -

Email address:

*(If more space is needed for additional contacts, please feel free to staple on an extra sheet.)*

**Student Info**

Email address:

Cell phone: (    ) -    -

What school did you attend last year?

What was the name of your English/Language Arts teacher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade?

Do you have reliable access to a computer at home?

Do you have reliable access to the internet at home?

Are there any clubs or teams that you are currently part of or considering joining at SPHS?

Why are you enrolled in an Honors English class?

What do you hope to get out of this class (*aside from* a high grade)?

What is your biggest motivation to do well in high school?

Write one thing about yourself that someone would never know just by looking at you: