

STOUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

Grade 9 is an important transitional year for students. To meet the needs of all of the students, there are four levels of ninth grade English. The major distinctions between these levels are the sophistication of the concepts and skills presented, and the amount of time required for students to understand and apply these ideas and skills. All courses will develop students' speaking and listening skills, with special emphasis placed on reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Based upon performance on the MCAS, as well as writing samples, grades in their English classes at the middle school, and teacher recommendations, students are specifically selected for two courses: Foundations of English, a course designed for students needing much individualized assistance, and English 9 Honors. All students are required to do summer reading, but students accepting the invitation into the honors program are required to read more books during the summer than students in the other levels of English. ***Students who take Foundations of English must also take the Reading Department's Intensive Reading course.*** The reading course not only supplements the skills needed to succeed with their English class literature, but also addresses the reading skills necessary for students to succeed in all of their courses.

English 9 College Preparatory and English 9 College are the other two English courses. The College Preparatory course is designed for the student who needs extra time and help with writing skills and/ or reading skills. Sometimes students in this level simply need more time to acquire the maturity and motivation that would be necessary to succeed in a 9 College English class. Given this transitional year course, they may then be ready to enter grade 10 College English; or if they still need time, they will be able to take a grade 10 College Preparatory course. ***Students who take English 9 College Preparatory must also take one semester of English Instructional Lab I.*** This workshop course is designed to assist students with specific writing problems that may hinder their progress in any subject area. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their English language arts skills and to practice test-taking strategies needed for the grade 10 MCAS test.

The English 9 College course is for students who have already developed good study habits. The typical students in this course consistently and rather independently do the required homework. They more easily understand the reading assignments and have had success writing well- organized, three to five paragraph essays. They can divide up more complex, long - range assignments themselves to complete them successfully and on time. By contrast, the 9 College Preparatory students require closer teacher monitoring to ensure the completion of required work. To complete a longer assignment successfully, the 9 College Preparatory students usually need the teacher to divide the assignment into smaller units for them. They also need more teacher assistance to understand the required reading.

In addition to selecting one of these required courses, students may also choose the elective, Journalism, which meets alternating days for the year. This course is especially useful for students interested in working on the school newspaper.

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