

Providence Extension Program - Mason
Composition & American Literature | 2023-2024

Contact Information:

Mrs. Heather Clark

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Course Description:

The Composition & American Lit. class covers several different types of writing including persuasive, expository and descriptive, along with a poetry unit and a persuasive research paper. The focus is on improving student writing by concentrating on content and technical areas. Students will also learn to identify the five major eras of American literature. Complementing the Starting Points class, American and other literature will be studied and used as a basis for improving writing techniques.

Course Materials:

Bob Jones American Literature 3rd Edition, The Scarlet Letter, Uncle Tom's Cabin, To Kill a Mockingbird

Suggested Supplies:

3-ring binder with tab dividers and notebook paper (you may share the binder with other classes, but make sure to have a couple tabs dedicated to comp/lit!), pens/pencils (I highly recommend colorful, erasable pens for annotating), highlighters, two-pocket folder (for the research paper 2nd/3rd quarter), note cards (for the research paper 2nd/3rd quarter).

Student Expectations:

- ✓ Arrive on time
- ✓ Complete all assignments before the start of class
- ✓ Bring all necessary materials each day
- ✓ Engage in class discussion
- ✓ Listen when others are speaking

Evaluation Methods:

Essays (including in class writing & research paper)	40%
Homework/Classwork	30%
Quizzes	10%
Annotation	10%
Participation/Preparation	10%

Late Work Policy:

In order to be prepared for class discussions and activities, students must complete all assignments on time. **All assignments turned in late will receive a 20% penalty.** Assignments more than 1 week late will receive a 0. In addition, by turning in work late, students waive the privilege of receiving comments on their work.

Absences:

If a student must be absent, a parent is expected to notify the PEP Site Administrator and their tutor.

- **Planned absences:** With the limited amount of class time, it is recommended that parents keep planned absences to a minimum and utilize PEP school breaks for vacations, family trips, etc. However, if a planned absence is necessary, parents must inform the tutor prior to the missed time. The parent and tutor can work out an appropriate schedule for the student to make up any class work, in-class writing, or administered quizzes. At the latest, this work will be due when the student returns to class. If the make-up work is not completed according to the schedule agreed on, the Late Work Policy will apply.
- **Unplanned absences** (e.g. illness, family emergency): The parent/student may work with the tutor to adjust due dates based on the situation.

Writing Assignment Requirements:

- MLA format is required for all writing assignments. The Purdue OWL is a great resource!!
- Use the conventions of Standard English grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation, and style in all writing assignments.
- Revise writing assignments (as necessary) that have multiple errors in grammar or syntax or that need stylistic changes (e.g., need to be written in the active voice vs. the passive voice). Some may require more than one revision. Students will typically have one week to complete required revisions.
- Proofread your written work. Ask at least one other person to proof your work prior to turning it in. Someone else's eyes need to see your paper before mine do!
- **PEP policies concerning academic cheating and plagiarism (including the use of AI) will be strictly enforced. Students may NOT use AI for any part of any assignment.**

TurnItIn:

During the first week of class, please log in to TurnItIn (www.turnitin.com) and create an account. Use class ID: 39632524. The course password was emailed in the Welcome Letter. All essays and major writing assignments must be submitted to TurnItIn.

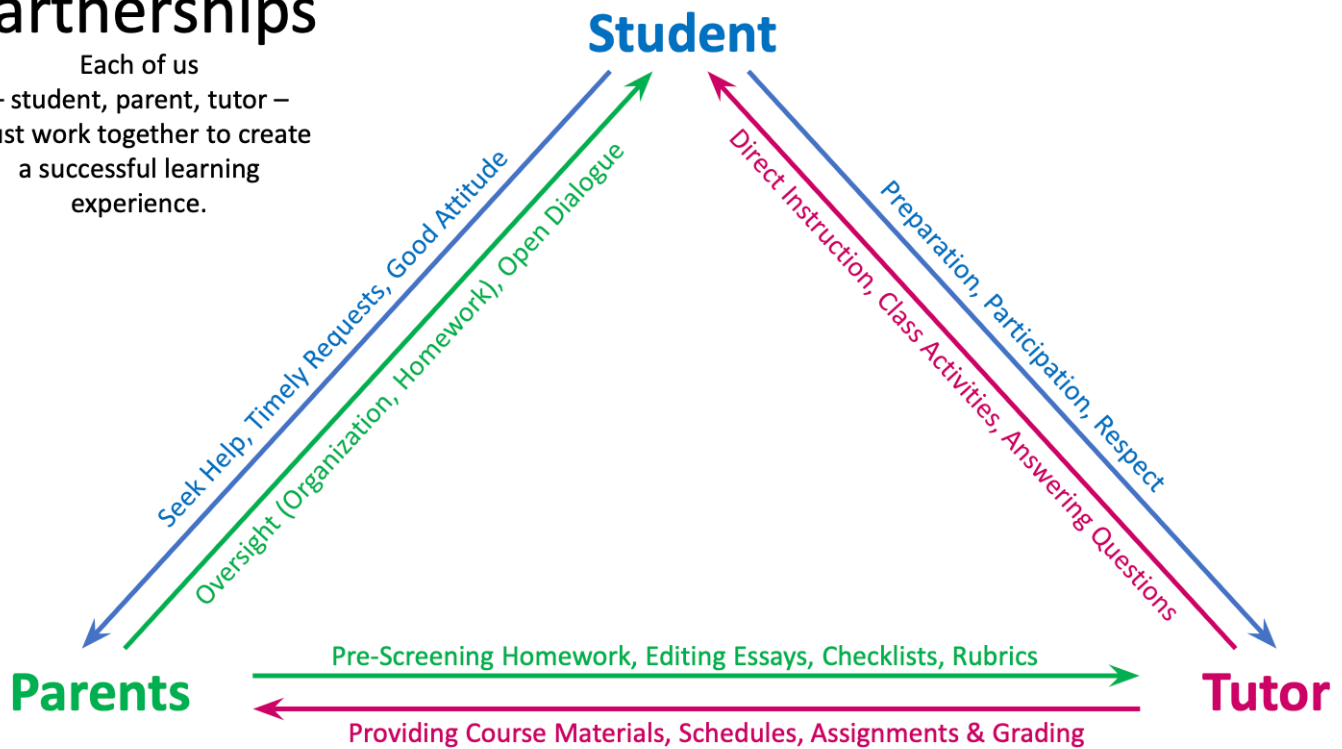
Dropbox:

All writing assignments will be submitted via Dropbox. If you do not already have a Dropbox account, send Mrs. Clark an email for an invite with directions to create a free account. All files turned in to Dropbox should be in PDF format. More instructions will follow in class.

PEP Parent Partnership (name that literary device ☺)

Partnerships

Each of us
– student, parent, tutor –
must work together to create
a successful learning
experience.



Parents

Organization

Monitor the student's documents (binder) and supplies. How often you need to do this will depend on your student. But, even the most highly organized Core B student needs supervision from time to time.

Homework

Students should first attempt most homework assignments independently. Parents should read the completed homework and help the student make improvements.

Open Dialogue

Take 5-10 minutes each week and ask your students a few simple, open-ended questions about what they are reading.

Essay Writing

Be involved in every step of the essay writing process. Help your student brainstorm and think through his/her ideas and arguments before beginning to write. Work closely with your student to revise all drafts.

Student

Timely Requests

Complete your homework in a timely manner so that your parent has time to review it. Keep your parents informed about assignments and due dates. It's not their job to remember what you need; it's your job to remind them. Schedule a time to work together well in advance.

Seek (and Accept) Help

Your first (and maybe second) attempt to complete the homework should be on your own. But if you get completely stuck, don't give up – get help. Your parents are smarter than you . . . know. Allow them to guide you and accept their corrections and criticisms as the loving acts that they are.

Good Attitude

When you forget your homework or you miss the notes or you leave your book at PEP or you can't find the handout or the essay revisions take hours... it is not your parents' fault. So don't treat them like it is.

****Graphics courtesy of Mrs. Fairweather**

Core C Comp & Lit Syllabus Signature Page

Please read, sign, and return to Mrs. Clark on the first day of class.

I have read the Core C Comp & Lit class syllabus and agree to abide by the class rules and guidelines.

(student signature)

(date)

(parent signature)

(date)