

**Aspire Pacific Academy: 2011-2012**  
**Ms. Andrea Kittelson**

**Class Web Site:** [www.webstaclecoursecourse.com](http://www.webstaclecoursecourse.com)

**Course(s) Title:** English 1 – Grade 9

**Course Description:**

This one-year course designed for students in ninth grade addresses the California state content standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking and is intended to prepare students for the rigors of any four-year university English program.

This course emphasizes the importance of critical thinking and research and writing as they pertain to the Aspire goal of “College for Certain”:

At Aspire we believe that every student deserves an opportunity to attend college and to be prepared to succeed when they get there. For us, high school graduation is on the beginning – college graduation is the true goal and passion of our team. Why? Because we know that a college degree matters. It gives our students a chance to earn what they need and an opportunity to pursue something they love. It opens the doors to opportunity and prepares and equips students to make an even bigger difference in their community. We are very proud of our high graduation rates and the rates at which our students get accepted into 4-year colleges and universities.

**Typical Activities:**

- Read silently with a purpose
- Write in a private journal
- Read and discuss works of literature in large and small groups, using Aspire-approved texts
- Study grammar and mechanics and apply what is gleaned to a variety of genres of writing
- Write and revise compositions in the following genres:
  - Rhetorical/Persuasive/Expository
  - Narrative (both fictional and autobiographical)
  - Literary Response and Analysis
  - Descriptive
  - End-of-the-year Exhibition
- Take multiple-choice, free-response, and cloze exams and write in-class “timed-write” essays
- Craft creative works such as screenplays, puppet shows, original songs, youtube videos and more that demonstrate high-order thinking, ingenuity and presentation skills
- Study the art of pedagogy so that you can effectively teach others

**Grading Breakdown:**

- 30% Class work and Positive Class Participation (Present, Punctual, Prepared and Participatory)
- 10% Homework
- 60% Essays, Exams and Projects

Note that essays and projects fall into two categories and are hence worth more.

Late assignments are not accepted. If you are absent on the day a large essay or project is due, you will be expected to make arrangements to turn in those assignments before or during your absence. For further clarification, visit [webstaclecoursecourse.com](http://www.webstaclecoursecourse.com).

Students who are absent **MUST** come in after school or e-mail Ms. Kittelson within three days of their absence in order to find out what class assignments (not essays, anticipated exams or projects) were missed. There is not sufficient time during class to catch up students who were previously absent. Students should also visit the website.

**Resources and Materials:**

- Novels and other texts from the Aspire-approved reading list
- Teacher-created materials
- Aspire proprietary materials
- EAP curriculum

**Class Rules and Procedures:**

- Be in your seat and engaged in the DO NOW activity when the bell rings.
- Be dressed appropriately in proper Aspire attire.
- Have all required supplies with you at all times (for a complete list, visit [webstaclearcourse.com](http://webstaclearcourse.com)).
- Refrain from using personal electronic devices unless prescribed by the instructor. (Calculators and laptops might sometimes be permitted; I-pods and cell phones will never be.)
- Because a generous portion of your grade is based on positive class participation, truancy and lethargy, which are antithetical to positive class participation, may negatively impact your grade. Stated another way, if you are on time and on task, up to 30% of your grade is an “A.” Luckily, because such a state of earnest engagement translates into higher achievement, your positive participation is a win-win for all.
- Ask on-topic questions in an appropriate way at the prescribed times. If your questions are not adequately answered during class, feel free to visit Ms. Kittelson in her classroom any day after school, or write her a note that you place in her mailbox on her desk, or e-mail her: [ak@webstaclearcourse.com](mailto:ak@webstaclearcourse.com).
- No candy, food or beverages other than bottled water are to be consumed by students in class.
- Sharpen pencils before class and have covered sharpeners and lead available.
- Additional procedures are outlined on the classroom website: [www.webstaclearcourse.com](http://www.webstaclearcourse.com)

**APA Rules** –All students at APA are expected to follow the following school rules:

1. Respect yourself and others
2. Follow the directions of all staff at all times
3. Arrive promptly and attend all classes
4. Dress professionally at all times

**APA Hierarchy of Consequences** – If a student breaks a school or class rule, he or she will choose to be met with the following hierarchy of consequences:

1. Verbal warning and possible seat change
2. Teacher-student conference and reflection (accompanied by a phone call home)
3. Same-day after school teacher detention or assigned admin detention (depending on incident)
4. Referral

**Academic Honesty:**

Plagiarism will be strictly enforced. First-time offenders will earn an “F” on the assignment, receive a phone call home and have the incident officially documented school-wide.

**Teaching Promise:**

Ms. Kittelson will strive to maintain a classroom that is both academically rigorous and strong in spirit.

“I understand the aforementioned and will abide by it.”

Student Name/ Student Signature/and Student E-mail:

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Parent Name/Parent Signature/**Parent Phone** and Parent E-mail:

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