

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
ENGL 1270, Transitional English  
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

An integration of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through oral and written presentation designed for high-intermediate English students. This course is designed with two strands: reading/writing; speaking/listening to improve reading comprehension, provide models of good writing, and improve general language skills through a series of structured practice opportunities.

Curricular Mapping:

This course will continue to develop the skills introduced through the ELL program, and will assist students as they are mainstreamed into English classes at their levels. This course provides advanced students with extensive practice in English oral communication as they focus on listening comprehension, speaking and pronunciation skills and strategies; effective presentations; and participation in group discussions. This course gives advanced students the opportunity to perfect their writing skills and prepares them to write in disciplines with high school level competence and accuracy. Students will develop vocabulary and grammatical structures appropriate to the academic assignments they are likely to encounter.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

Reading Tasks:

- Analyze the purpose of a text
- Identify main ideas
- Scan for supporting details
- Identify author's viewpoint
- Identify chronology in a text
- Recognize organization of a text
- Learn literary devices and terms

Writing Tasks:

- Write a descriptive paragraph about a personal experience
- Take notes in outline form
- Develop an essay from an outline
- Write a narrative essay
- Write an opinion essay

Listening Tasks:

- Identify main ideas

Listen for supporting details  
 Interpret tone and pitch  
 Take a dictation  
 Take notes while using a graphic organizer  
 Listen to and evaluate student responses

**Speaking Tasks:**

Make predictions  
 Summarize Points  
 Express and defend opinions  
 Conduct interviews  
 Plan and give a three minute speech  
 Act out scripted dialogues

Texts:

None

Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Parent-Student Handbook.

Participation - 0 unexcused absences; 0 tardiness; active participation; appropriate classroom behavior and language.

*Plagiarism/Cheating:* The student handbook covers these. A first infraction receives a “0” for the assignment without the possibility of a make-up. A second infraction receives a “0” for the assignment and suspension and disciplinary probation. If you share your work inappropriately, you’re also cheating and will be treated as such. Be honest.

Grading:

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Essays	30%	Quarter	45%
Daily Participation	20%	Quarter	45%
Quizzes	25%	Final Exam	10%
In Class Assignments	25%		

## Class Policies

1. *Absence*: It is your responsibility to make up your work, get notes, etc. when absent according to the protocol set in the Parent/Student Handbook (i.e. number of days absent=number of days to turn in and make up work except in the case of missing a single test day, etc.). Remember that planned absences (sports' trips, choir, field trips, family vacations) require you to turn in your work *before* you leave.
2. *Tardy*: You must be in your seat with your course materials before the bell rings to be considered timely.
3. *Classroom etiquette*: We expect responsibility and respect (to us and your peers); those are the prerequisites to godly success ("Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you in the land"; "Love your neighbor"; "Do all things as unto the Lord"). In our classes we need to exercise self control to allow everyone some time to share. There is a time to work quietly, to chat lowly, and opine boisterously; by this time, you should be well aware of the etiquette in these things, but we'll remind you in case of a lapse. Repeat reminders will earn our attention and response (generally a warning; if unheeded, an extra assignment and/or infraction depending on the situation).
4. *Late Work*: Work that is late for any reason will earn no more than 50%. Your work is late if you do not give it to the teacher when it is due. For the policy regarding work that is late as the result of an unexcused, excused, or pre-planned excused absence, please refer to the Parent- Student Handbook.
5. *Grace Period*: The teacher will assign a specific due date for an essay. For certain essays, the teacher will inform you of a **grace period**. If an essay is due on 10/27 and will be accepted until 10/31, it does not mean that the essay is due on 10/31. It does mean that you are expected to turn in your essay on 10/27. But if you are experiencing "technical" difficulties, you have until 10/31 to take care of those difficulties. If the essay is not turned in on 10/31, your essay will be considered late. In order for your essay to be considered "on time," you must submit a hardcopy by the end of the grace period. If the hardcopy is late, your essay is late. If you are absent for a full school day at the end of the Grace Period, you must make sure that you have submitted your paper to Focus and/or emailed it to me. If you are absent for a partial school day at the end of the Grace Period, you must turn in the hardcopy.
6. *Food and Drink*: Water only.

## Tips for the students

- Each assignment will be awarded points based on the level of difficulty and amount of work required for successful completion.
- Students who do exceptionally well, or who show a significant improvement in attitude or performance, may receive a positive progress report.
- Class participation is an integral part of this class. Students will be held responsible for discussion during all aspects of this course.

- Participation in small-group and class discussion, written assignments, oral reports, and quizzes will all contribute to evaluating student progress.

#### Miscellaneous

**Make-up Policy:** Students who are absent from class are responsible to ask what was covered during their absence. This should be discussed the day the student returns to class. One day is allotted to complete makeup work for each day absent.

**Quiz Policy:** Quizzes may be given any time and may or may not be announced. If absent on the day a test is given, the student should be prepared to make up the missed test upon return to school.