**12th Grade Language Arts – Semester 2**

**Teacher**: Mrs. Marlana Perry

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**Office Hours**: P.5 and before and after school on black days (by appointment only)

Congratulations on making it to your last semester of high school! You are in the home stretch and I am very excited to share this experience with you. I know this last semester will be tough (trust me, I understand senioritis), but you just have a few months to finish strong. I will do everything in my power to make sure that you meet your goals in this class as long as you are willing to work hard with me to make it a good and successful semester.

***Goals for students:***

1. Become better writers, readers, communicators, and especially critical thinkers
2. Learn to love language and literature—at least a little more than you did when you started the class.
3. Set goals for success this semester and beyond and create a path for how you will reach those goals
4. Become lifelong learners if you aren’t one already
5. Learn to view failure not as the end but as a stepping point for continued effort and future success
6. Explore the world and different viewpoints in an open-minded and critical way

I expect a lot from all of you because I am trying to prepare you for life after high school, and if you give me your best effort, I promise that you will gain much from this class. In order to get to that point, we will collaborate together, and I hope to learn and struggle right along with you. My classroom is a safe zone, where we will discuss the big issues about life and we will respect one another completely. Anything that is brought up in this classroom stays here. We are peers in learning, and as long as respect is given, respect will be returned.

***What you can expect from me*:**

* I will give 100% to you at all times
* I will come prepared with lessons for class and I will be ready to teach when class starts
* I will not waste your time at any point in class or homework with busy work
* I will hand back work in a timely manner with thorough feedback that you can use to complete future assignments
* I will treat all of you with respect, and I will be understanding and fair in all situations
* My door will always be open and you can come to me with concerns about class, or even with concerns about life in general, and I will be willing to work through them with you

***My daily expectations from you:***

* Work hard towards your goals and don’t make excuses
* Come to class prepared with all the material you will need be ready to learn when class starts (every day, this will include something to write with, loose-leaf paper to write on, and the literature we are reading)
* Communicate if you will miss class so that we can find a way to help you avoid missing out on the learning opportunity
* Complete all assignments by the due date in order to get the most learning out of each
* Take homework seriously—since I will avoid assigning busy work, everything I ask you to complete out of class will be extremely important
* Feel welcome to come to me to discuss any issues you are having in the class immediately; be your own **advocate** and do not wait until it is too late to remedy the situation
* Collaborate with your classmates and be respectful of all thoughts and opinions in the classroom
* Check your email daily in case I have sent out anything regarding our class so that you are properly prepared
* Be open to new activities, experiences, thoughts, and opinions; never close yourself off to having fun in this class!

***What will be allowed in my classroom:***

* Cell phones should be out of sight and out of mind; they may be used for classroom related activities only when given permission. If I see them otherwise, they get to hang out with me until the end of class
* Computers and iPads will be allowed for classroom related activities only
* We will follow the school policy of no food in the classroom
* Attitudes, drama, apathy, and laziness should be left at the door

***Behavior:***

I expect that there will be very few behavioral issues in the classroom. As long as you act like adults, I will treat you like adults.

***Attendance*:**

I expect you to come to every class, prepared and ready to learn. For every class, you will earn 10 points for participation.  If you are unprepared or unwilling to work, you will lose participation points. If you have an unexcused absence, you will lose participation points as well. Still, I do understand that things may come up where you cannot make it to class. Please let me know in advance if you will be missing (though if it is an unexpected absence, come talk to me afterwards). In college and the workplace, you will be expected to take the initiative to get caught up if you miss a day of school or work, so while I will make a plan with you to get you caught up regardless of why you were absent, I do expect you to start the conversation.

Please try to avoid being tardy to class. We will start the lesson right away, so missing the first part of class will mean you will miss important information. I follow Lakewood’s tardy policy: you will be marked absent unless you come ask me to change it to a tardy after class.

***Grading Policy:***

Grades are not given, they are earned based on both your effort and your ability to show what you have learned.

Grades will be broken down in the following manner—

* Reading -- 25%
* Writing -- 25%
* Speaking/Listening -- 25%
* Learning Experiences/Misc -- 25%

***Late work:***

My policy about late work is that you can always turn it in! Still, there will be deductions from your grade if it is late. 10% will be taken off for each school day for the first week that it is late. If it is more than a week late, you can receive no higher than a 50% on it and you will not receive feedback on the assignment. This includes all major essays and projects. In the event that you end up with an assignment that is a week late, I do recommend you turn it in because a 50% is still better than a zero. In order to turn in late work, you will have to complete a late work sheet, staple it to the work, and turn it into the basket. Do not hand late work to me. If your absence is excused, your work will not be counted as late as long as it is turned in within the window for absent work; however, I will still want it turned into the basket with a late sheet so I know when I received it from you.

***Integrity:***

I have a strict no tolerance policy in my classroom for cheating or plagiarism. I want to see your own work, not someone else’s. I learn what I have to teach by how well you do on your assignments, so copying someone else’s work or plagiarizing will mean you will not get the most out of the class and I will no longer know what I need to teach you. We will use turnitin to for any writing assignment. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and further disciplinary action may be taken per school policy. If you have a question about what is considered plagiarism, please check in with me.

***Going above and beyond (AKA extra credit):***

I believe that each of you should be rewarded if you would like to go above and beyond. Going above and beyond will include completing test corrections or doing rewrites using feedback given. If you do poorly on an assignment and would like to discuss how you can earn some of the credit back, please check in with me and we will make a plan.

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Student signature                                                     Date

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Parent signature                                                       Date

Parent preferred contact language: English Spanish Other