

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 8

Official Course Outline
Cox

English Language Arts – Grade 8

Welcome to Grade 8 ELA!

In this course, you will continue to develop your skills in the six main areas of communication – reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. You will be exploring many types of texts, including **speeches, short stories, novels, plays, films, commercials, images, and cartoons**. You will have the opportunity to practice functional and creative writing to achieve a variety of purposes.

The aim of English language arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning.

OUTCOMES

Grade 8 has five general student outcomes that serve as the foundation for the program of studies.

Students will **read, write, listen, speak, view, and represent** to...



explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences



comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts



manage ideas and information



enhance the clarity and artistry of communication



respect, support and collaborate with others.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Students will learn through a variety of differential instructional methods and strategies including, but not limited to, direct instruction, cooperative learning, independent learning, brainstorming, and small/large group discussion.

Technologies such as chrome books, google classroom, videos, and online tools will be used periodically throughout the instructional day.

EXPECTATIONS

In order to excel emotionally, socially, and academically in this course, you should...

- **Be Prepared** – Come to class on time and prepared with required materials (this means mentally preparing yourself! Have you eaten? Slept enough?)
- **Attend** – Regular attendance and consistent work habits are the key to your success.
- **Manage Your Time** – If you do your homework in class, review your work, study for quizzes/exams, AND ASK FOR HELP WHEN NEEDED you will succeed in this course
- **Appropriate Behavior**– Students will behave in a manner that contributes to a safe classroom environment and enhances the learning experiences of their peers.
- **Have a Good Attitude** – This classroom is a safe place and a ‘second home’ to us. Treat your peers with compassion, generosity, and patience. Be kind and always offer a helping hand! School is hard enough as it is; we will not be mean to each other.

Let’s remember that ‘success’ looks different for everyone!

PROCEDURES

Bathroom Breaks: One student at a time will be able to leave the classroom at a time. Students are expected to behave appropriately in the hallways and bathroom.

Missed Work: All essential class material will be posted on Google Classroom; this will include in-class notes, assignments, quizzes, and materials. In addition, all important dates will be posted in Google Classroom, so you’ll know what’s ahead even if you missed the in-class announcement.

Rewrites: The purpose of this procedure is to allow students to perform their BEST within the classroom. In order to rewrite a quiz/exam, students must

complete the rewrite form explaining why they want to rewrite and explain how they plan to prepare. Re-writes will be approved on a case to case basis.

Office Hours – I will check my email Monday to Friday 8:30am-5:30pm. If an email is received after these hours, it will not be responded to until the following business day. That being said, emails sent Friday night will not be responded to until Monday morning.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Binder
- Notebook OR lined paper
- Highlighters
- Pencils, Pens, Eraser

*Any other necessary materials will be provided in class.

POLICIES

CELL PHONES

Cell phones will be kept in a cell phone pouch. Each student will have their own labelled pouch where they will put their phone every day. During breaks and lunch phones may be used. During class, personal devices will be periodically used to complete/participate in online activities.

COMPUTERS

Computers will be used for specific tasks! This means, while they are not being used, they will remain closed on the desk.

LATES

If you're late, stop by the office and pick up a late slip! They need to change your attendance. Even if you're late, I'm thankful you're here!

UNITS OF STUDY

These unit timelines are tentative and subject to change

Unit One - Introduction - This unit establishes daily routines, focuses on building relationships, and introducing some fundamental concepts necessary for the rest of the school year. We'll explore proper citation, plagiarism, punctuation, grammar, and reading comprehension.

Unit Two - The Dark and Grim - This unit will focus on the dark and dangerous - short stories that take place in ghoulish settings, short films with grim tones, and poetry that focuses on life and death. We'll highlight Edgar Allan Poe.

Unit Three - Popular Culture – This unit will focus on social media and its effects on our daily lives, film and its interaction with popular culture, and sports. The overarching theme is popular culture with a specific focus on each of the previous topics. Students will submit a reflective journal at the end of the unit.

Unit Four – In the Face of Adversity – This unit will explore novels, comics, and films that focus on the individual overcoming a barrier. Some characters have super powers and others draw on inspiring figures to get where they need to go!

Unit Five - Poetry- This unit will explore varying types of poetry and their purpose. Students will have an opportunity to try a variety of writing styles and methods to engage with this genre.

Unit Five - Blast From the Past – In this unit, we will explore the idea of divided communities, personal identity, and preserving childlike innocence. *The Outsiders* written by S.E. Hinton will be our main focus and paired with other complimentary

Unit Six - The Art of Persuasion - This unit will look at influential speeches, ads, and letters. By exploring these texts, we will learn how to cultivate our own persuasive voices and apply this skill to functional letter writing.

ASSESSMENT

All major assignments will have a 'due' date and a 'dead' date. When work is handed in on the **due** date, there will be an opportunity to improve and enhance the work to potentially receive a higher grade. If the due date is missed, you'll have till the **dead** date to hand in your work. Although, you will not have the opportunity to improve your work and learn from feedback! If the due date and dead date is missed, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken (ex: student-teacher meeting, lunch work blocks, make up assignments, email home)

Reading	30%
Writing	30%
Listening & Viewing	10%
Speaking & Representing	5%
Final Exam	25%

RESOURCES

Desjardins, Nancy, et al. *Par Ici: Méthod Français*. Montreal, Les Éditions, 2016.