



DA VINCI DESIGN ENGLISH 9 & COMPOSITION

<http://english9dvd.weebly.com>

MR. KALMA

akalma@davincischools.org

Room 104

OFFICE
HOURS :
W/Th: 8-9 am

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to 9th grade English and Composition! It is an honor to work with you this school year. I have high expectations for academic, social, and creative development of each student through this course and the Design community. I am anticipating much dedication and collaboration. Students and parents should read the following information and fill out the contact page to help me maintain thorough contact. It is my goal to keep everyone informed about class policies, assignments/projects, student progress and school news. Additionally, please visit my Digital Portfolio (Weebly Blog) regularly to find all class documents, parents, please do not hesitate to email or visit during Office Hours should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank You,
Adam Kalma

The goal of English 9 and Composition is to develop essential reading, writing, listening & speaking, and language skills necessary to excel and thrive during students' time at Da Vinci. These communication skills translate directly into the university setting and into the 21st century job force, preparing students for design based, and collaborative positions. We will be interacting with important works of literature and relevant informational texts in a series of classroom discussions, debates, essays and projects where students take a hands-on, real world approach to applying their knowledge and skill. This course will require students to think critically about their lives and communities while becoming critics and designers of language.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS:

The following skills are essential to the English discipline, among other content that students will encounter during their time at Da Vinci. They fall into the following four categories:

Language Conventions, Writing Applications, Reading Analysis, Speaking/Listening

- 1) Reading:
 - a) Literary
 - i) Theme
 - ii) Characterization
 - iii) Tone & Connotation
 - iv) Figurative Language
 - b) Argumentative/informative
 - i) Rhetorical Devices
 - ii) Purpose
 - iii) Audience
 - iv) Persona
 - v) Argument
- 2) Form of Writing:
 - a) Grammar
 - i) Comma
 - ii) Semicolon
 - iii) Quote Lead in and Set-up
 - iv) Syntax
 - v) Simple vs. Compound
 - vi) Independent/Dependent Clause
 - vii) Honors: Appositives
 - b) Structure
 - i) Paragraph Structure
 - ii) Essay Structure
 - iii) MLA Formatting
 - iv) Email
 - v) Business Letter
- 3) Content of Writing:
 - i) Thesis
 - ii) Evidence Credibility
 - iii) Analysis – Say, Mean, & Matter
 - iv) Word Choice & Vocabulary
- 4) Communication / Speaking & Presenting:
 - a) Active Listening-paraphrase and respond
 - b) Preparation
 - c) Verbal and Non-Verbal Skills
 - d) Socratic Seminars
 - e) Presentation Skills
- 5) Habits of Mind:

- a) Accountability
- b) Collaboration
- c) Quality

SEMESTER SCHEDULE:

Unit 1: Da Vinci Design Culture

Essential Questions: What does it mean to be a Da Vinci Design student? How can I make sure I get the best out of this experience and learning environment?

Literature: Articles & Mindset
Composition: Letter to Future Self
Deliverable: Design Challenge & “Me” Speech

Unit 2: Social Impact, Not Selfies

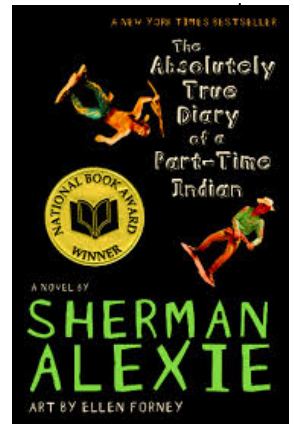
Essential Questions: Is technology helping or hindering our culture?

Literature: Articles regarding technology
Composition: Narrative Writing
Deliverable: “This I Believe”, Justice Narrative

Unit 3: Dying to Live

Essential Questions: What does it mean to truly live? How can I keep the dead alive?

Literature: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Composition: Research/Informational Essay
Deliverable: Podcast & Legacy of a Loved One



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Our classroom, classmates, and class materials are **highly** important to our learning. It must be a safe and healthy space to learn and share new ideas. These are guidelines to be followed by students and teacher.

PROFESSIONALISM...

1. **Respect each other and our differences.** Overcome racist, homophobic, sexist, derogatory language. We endorse positive language.
2. **Take ownership of your work and performance.** Seek help when needed, ask questions and attend tutoring in Office Hours.
3. **Be on time, in your seat with materials,** prepared for learning... otherwise, you are tardy 1 minutes after the bell.
4. **Teamwork.** Have upmost consideration for your collaborative partners or group. Complete tasks on time and with excellence/quality.



5. **Participate** in discussion and decision-making. Be an ACTIVE listener and contributor.
6. **Ownership of technology** use by utilizing the computers/iPads for the assigned tasks and learning purposes only. Misuse will be monitored and addressed with parent contact.

UNPROFESSIONALISM...

1. Do not use cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc. in class unless instructed by Mr. Kalma.
2. Do not eat food or drinks, other than water, in the classroom.
3. Do not violate dress code: colored shirt/appropriate pants/close toed shoes (see School Handbook for reference for full dress code policy).

GRADING POLICY:

At Da Vinci we use Design Based Grading. Students' will be graded on their ability to demonstrate proficient application of the 9 Essential Skills listed on page 1- 2. Students will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate their mastery of these skills each semester, along with the Habits of Mind skills that assess students' work ethic and effort in projects/assignments.

English 9 & Composition (70%)

Habits of Mind (30%)

Each student is responsible to meet all course requirements, including class participation, homework, quizzes/tests, collaborative work and projects. Several methods of assessment will be used during all semesters. Students' projects will be graded on both an individual and group basis when applicable. Letter grades will be earned using the following scale:

Meaning	Grading Scale	PowerSchool Grading
No evidence. Students failed to submit an assignment.	0.0	No Pass
Evidence does not demonstrate understanding.	1.0 – 2.0	No Pass
Evidence demonstrates basic understanding.	2.0 – 3.0	C- to B-
Evidence demonstrates proficient understanding.	3.0 – 4.0	B to A
Evidence demonstrates excellent understanding.	4.0 – 5.0	A+

****Note: Any grade lower than a C- (2.0 and below) is considered not passing (I=incomplete) (as any grade lower than a C disqualifies a student from becoming university eligible). A student that receives a grade lower than a C- will be responsible for completing summer school, additional classes or special assignments and work to complete the class for credit.*



Late Work Policy

All students are highly *encouraged* to submit late work within the week from the assigned due date. Should class assignments, homework, or project pieces be turned in late, students will receive a deduction in Habits of Mind grades (which account for 30% of the students overall grade).

Makeup Work Policies

If a student is absent...

- Check Mr. Kalma's Digital Portfolio for important documents and class assignments or email as soon as possible.
- Students have the amount of time they were absent to make up that work. *For example, if a student is absent one day, he or she has one day to make up the work.*

If a student is absent on the day of a quiz or an exam...

- Students will be expected to **make it up the following day they return to school, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- *Note: Students will always know at least a week in advance, if not more, the definite date of an assessment.*

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

The following are classroom materials that students must bring to insure a quality education every day to class

- Composition Notebook
- Pencils (1 box)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 glue stick
- Paper clips (1 box)
- Blue/black pens (1 box)
- Highlighters (1 pack)
- 1" Binders
- 5 Folders
- 1 pack of 3"x5" lined index cards
- 1 package of loose leaf paper

*Students may also need colored pencils or markers.

IMPORTANT

Here at Da Vinci Design High School, student effort, production and achievement are showcased in several manners. Students are required to fully attend and participate in all of the following events.

Student-Led Conferences (SLCs): Student-Led Conferences (SLC) is held twice a year. These conferences are an opportunity for students to present their academic progress in a school setting. Students will lead a conference with a teacher representative and their parents examining their evidence of essential skill proficiency, as well as an action plan each student has devised to improve or continue progress. Finally, teachers will address any clarifying questions that students and parents may have.

SLCs are: _____

Exhibition Night: Exhibitions are held twice a year. This event is hosted during after school hours from 6 pm until 8 pm. Students are required to attend and participate for the entire duration of the event. Exhibitions are an event in which parents, family, teachers and community are invited to view and experience the projects and knowledge that students have gained over the course of the semester. Students are required to wear professional attire unless otherwise instructed by their teachers.



Those 2 dates are: _____

Presentations of Learning (POLs): POLs are reserved for the last days of each semester. Students are required to defend the skills, knowledge and application they have acquired over the course of the semester in all classes excluding seminars and advisory. Students are required to wear professional attire; prepare a digital presentation of skills and knowledge acquired; and demonstrates skills and knowledge in a real world application.

A POL grade is also given at the end of the semester. POLs are one of the signature practices of Da Vinci Design High School. As such, freshmen students are given a minimum of one week to prepare and practice in class for this presentation of learning. Within this time, students are given matrices to select topics; checklists to collect data; work time to collaborate with classmates and teachers to refine skills and knowledge; opportunity to craft and develop a well-written detailed outline or script; work time to print, scan and copy necessary materials; as well as participate in mock presentations and speak with upper classmen who have completed successful presentations.

POLs this year are: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who choose not to present on the day of their scheduled presentation date as a result of unpreparedness will forfeit the opportunity to re-present and



receive an incomplete ("I") in the subject section of their defense. Students must pass four out of six subject defenses to receive a passing grade in their semester defense portfolio.

Please Note: Absences and/or tardies do not excuse a student's submission of late work. Moreover, technical difficulties (i.e. hard drive crash; printer issues such as no ink or jamming; or incompatible software programs) are an insufficient excuse of submitting late work. As freshmen, students are given ample opportunity to complete most assignments at school under the guidance of their instructor.

Please sign this and have this signed by one of your parents/guardians by Friday, August 28, 2015 and detach the bottom portion of this form to submit to Mr. Kalma.

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____

Parents/Guardians: Please complete and sign this page. Include your email address, as well as the phone number where we can best reach you. Being able to have reliable communication with parents is key! Please have your child return this signed form by **Friday, August 28th.**

I understand and agree to the expectations and guidelines set forth in this syllabus.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Any additional information/questions/concerns:

