The focus of the English II course is the writing process. Three writing applications guide the curriculum: persuasive, expository, and narrative writing. Each lesson culminates in a written assignment that lets students demonstrate their developing skill in one of these applications.

English II follows the model of English I by including at least one anchor text per lesson, but the essays, articles, stories, poems, and speeches are often presented as models for students to emulate as they practice their own writing. So that these readings may serve as proper examples for students, a high proportion of texts for this course are original pieces.

English II also continues to develop students' reading, listening, and speaking skills. Readings include poems, stories, speeches, plays, and a graphic novel, as well as a variety of informational texts. The readings represent a wide variety of purposes and cultural perspectives, ranging from the Indian epic The Ramayana to accounts of Hurricane Katrina told through different media. Audio and video presentations enhance students' awareness and command of rhetorical techniques and increase their understanding of writing for different audiences.

Course Materials

This course has required materials. For more information, see the Course Materials List.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: The Written Word

- Expository Prose
- Persuasive Prose
- Narrative Prose
- Wrap Up: The Written Word

Unit 2: The Story

- Plot
- Character
- Description
- Wrap Up: The Story

Unit 3: Literary Criticism

- Theme
- Figurative Language
- Context
- Wrap Up: Literary Criticism

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Unit 4: The Research Paper

- Finding Support
- Using Sources
- Revision
- Wrap Up: The Research Paper

Unit 5: Wrap Up

- Wrap Up

Unit 6: Practical Documents

- Organization
- Clarity
- Formal Letters
- Wrap Up: Practical Documents

Unit 7: Persuasive Texts

- Tone
- The Medium
- Purpose
- Wrap Up: Persuasive Texts

Unit 8: The Speech

- Speech Analysis
- Speechwriting
- Moving an Audience
- Wrap Up: The Speech

Unit 9: Researched Argumentation

- Claims, Reasons, and Evidence
- Counterclaims
- Revision, Proofreading, and Peer Evaluation
- Wrap Up: Researched Argumentation

Unit 10: Wrap Up

- Wrap Up

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