English 9 introduces students to informational and literary genres. Students investigate the elements of nonfiction and literature through the critical analysis of texts that range from essays, speeches, articles and historical documents to a novella, a play, poetry, and short stories. As they develop their writing skills and respond to theses, students learn to formulate arguments and use textual evidence to support their position. Throughout the course, students learn to engage with a variety of media types through which they process and synthesize information, discuss material, create presentations, and share their work.

English 9 supports all students in developing the depth of understanding and higher order skills required by the state standards. Students break down increasingly complex readings with close reading tools, guided instruction, and robust scaffolding as they apply each of the lesson's concepts back to its anchor text. Students build their writing and speaking skills in journal responses, discussions, frequent free response exercises, and written assignments and presentations, learning to communicate clearly and credibly in literary, argumentative, and informational styles. Throughout the course, students are evaluated through a diversity of assessments designed to prepare them for the content, form, and depth of state exams.

This course is built to state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: The Short Story, Part 1

- The Shape of a Story
- Setting, Character, and Dialogue
- Point of View, Tone, and Theme
- Wrap-Up: The Short Story, Part 1

Unit 2: The Short Story, Part 2

- Magical Realism
- Gothic Literature
- The Short Story, Part 2

Unit 3: Poetry

- Reading Poetry
- The Shape of Poetry
- Poetry and Art
- Wrap-Up: Poetry

Unit 4: The Novella: Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis

- Translation
- Context and Theme
- Kafka's Hero

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- Wrap-Up: The Novella: Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Drama: Shakespeare's Macbeth

- Murder and Mayhem and Macbeth
- The Supernatural in Shakespeare
- Interpretations of Heroism
- Wrap-Up: Drama: Shakespeare's Macbeth

Unit 7: The Rhetoric of Argument

- Understand Argument Fallacies
- Responding to Challenging Perspectives
- Wrap-Up: The Rhetoric of Argument

Unit 8: The Rhetoric of Speeches

- Speech: Women's Rights
- Speech: Civil Rights
- Speech: Human Rights
- Wrap-Up: The Rhetoric of Speeches

Unit 9: Reinterpreting Fiction

- The War of the Worlds: The Book
- The War of the Worlds: The Radio Broadcast
- The War of the Worlds: Afterward
- Wrap-Up: Reinterpreting Fiction

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

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