

Syllabus

English 9B

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In English 9B, you will study a variety of techniques to improve your reading comprehension and writing skills. The instruction covers many types of writing: creative, descriptive, expository, narrative, and persuasive. In English 9B, you will read and analyze Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as read speeches and essays to evaluate their arguments. You will write evaluations of literary works with regard to literary techniques, form, and theme.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will:

- Examine the historical context, characteristics, and genres of Shakespearean plays.
- Analyze the themes, setting, language, and overall conflict of *Romeo and Juliet*.
- Explore the characteristics of essays about plays.
- Examine narrative and persuasive essays to determine their characteristics and purpose.
- Investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.
- Analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history.
- Explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays.
- Evaluate your current writing habits and explore the steps of the prewriting process.
- Review and deepen your understanding of writing as a process.
- Examine the steps for completing the final draft of an essay, including editing and revising.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

English 9B is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: Shakespearean Drama

Summary

This unit introduces you to the works of William Shakespeare. You will study the historical context and characteristics of Shakespeare’s plays and then read and analyze Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, a tragic romance. Along the way, you will analyze the themes, settings, language, and conflicts of the play. At the end of the unit, you will explore the characteristics of literary essays about plays and write an essay about *Romeo and Juliet*, building on the academic writing skills you have developed.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
5 days: 2–6	Elements of Shakespearean Drama <i>Examine the historical context, characteristics, and genres of Shakespearean plays.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 7–12	<i>Romeo and Juliet: Act I</i> <i>Analyze the themes, setting, and language of Romeo and Juliet.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 13–18	<i>Romeo and Juliet: Acts II and III</i> <i>Explore the themes of family and love in Romeo and Juliet.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 19–24	<i>Romeo and Juliet: Acts IV and V</i> <i>Analyze the tragedy and overall conflict in Romeo and Juliet.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 25–29	Writing About Plays <i>Explore the characteristics of essays about plays.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
3 days: 30–32	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 33	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Reading Nonfiction

Summary

This unit focuses on nonfiction, with an emphasis on essays. You will use your reading skills to analyze the purpose and characteristics of narrative and persuasive (or argumentative) essays. You will explore techniques used to evaluate the arguments put forth in essays, and then you will read and analyze the rhetoric, such as appeals to logos, pathos, and ethos, used in historic speeches. At the end of the unit, you will explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
6 days: 34–39	Reading Narrative and Persuasive Essays <i>Examine narrative and persuasive essays to determine their characteristics and purpose.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 40–45	Evaluating Arguments <i>Investigate techniques for evaluating arguments in essays.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 46–50	Analyzing Historic Speeches <i>Analyze the rhetoric in speeches from US history.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 51–56	Writing Essays <i>Explore the differences between expository, persuasive, and reflective essays.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 57–59	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 60	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Argumentative and Research Writing

Summary

In this unit, you will focus on building your writing skills. You will start by analyzing different writing samples to examine the traits of conventionally “good” and “bad” writing. Next you will evaluate your current writing habits and explore how to use prewriting techniques, such as creating outlines and doing relevant research. You will see the importance of crafting essays using evidence that supports the arguments put forth while avoiding plagiarism. At the end of the unit, you will work on the final steps of the writing process: editing and revising to polish the final draft.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
6 days: 61–66	Good Writing Versus Bad Writing <i>Explore the traits of conventionally “good” and “bad” writing by analyzing examples.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 67–72	Before You Write <i>Evaluate your current writing habits and explore the steps of the prewriting process.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 73–78	While You Write <i>Investigate how to craft an essay using evidence that supports an argument while avoiding plagiarism.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 79–83	After You Write <i>Examine the steps for completing the final draft of an essay, including editing and revising.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 84–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	End-of-Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment