

Middle School ESL
Mr. Niemann (tnieman@schools.nyc.gov)

Course Description

This course is designed to help students to become better readers, writers, and thinkers following the New Language Arts Progressions in accordance with the Common Core Standards. The course will support understanding of material required for success at Hostos-Lincoln Academy Middle School, High School and in college. We will focus on simplifying complex tasks required for writing across disciplines and for passing Middle School examinations, as we focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar and writing. We will learn about rhetoric, in preparation to meet the Common Core Standards – through class readings that will help you to access more difficult texts. Where possible, the curriculum will be adapted to supplement the work required in other classes. Students will have weekly work in grammar, reading comprehension and writing. Students will receive points for daily work including reading aloud, being prepared for class with a journal and pencil/pen. Students will submit work in journals and online.

Instructional Goals

- Students will develop facility in standard English Language usage and grammar.
- Students will develop positive routines in writing studying and research
- Students will be become well versed in writing formats required for academic writing across the curriculum
- Students will acquire and demonstrate usage of Tier 3 vocabulary toward success on exams such as the Regents and NYSESLAT
- Students will be able to develop a variety of sentence structures
- Students will be able to establish an effective use of rhetoric including controlling tone and a voice appropriate to their audience
- Students will learn to appreciate reading for enjoyment and information

Grading Policy

Formative Assessments-80% A variety of assessments will be used to track daily progress.

These include but are not limited to:

- Engagement in classroom discussions
- Completion of homework assignments
- Collaborative efforts
- Engagement in online exercises and tasks

Summative Assessments: 20% A variety of assessments will be used to track long-term progress.

These include but are not limited to:

- Formal typed papers
- Vocabulary Tests
- Timed writing
- Culminating unit projects

Course Materials (Include but are not limited to...)

- A variety of passages and articles from diverse news sources as the New York Times, dnainfo.com
- Past exams from Nysedregents.gov, particularly in grade level ELA
- Primary source documents
- Subject area course texts, e.g. American History, Living Environment et al.
- A variety of non-fiction or historical fiction graphic novels
- A variety of instructional online videos from diverse sources.
- passages from readtheory.org
- grammar exercises from chompchomp.com and noredink.com