



# English Language Arts 1

School Year: 2011-2012 – Semester 1 (Fall/Winter)

Instructor: Oni R. FulbrightWoods

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Room: #1- *Jayuya*, Main Building

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**“Education is a conversation where there are no experts.”**

- Motto of the *Joy Arts Institutes*

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course is designed to be a level one reading and writing course. Students will be employing various strategies to help them dig deeper into relevant issues as they engage in critical reading and thinking. There is a substantial written component to each unit plan so students can begin to practice basic writing and editing skills. There is also a substantial presentation/performance component that will assist with acquisition and application of critical/active listening and reading skills. This is not your typical Language Arts course. We will be thinking and acting “out of the box” to increase the learning experience for all of the learners in this course (instructor included).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of this course is to improve and add to your reading, speaking, listening, writing, reflective, discussion, and thinking skills in Language Arts. This course also addresses basic techniques for preparing students to listen to, research and write a compelling speech or presentation.

**GRADE CRITERIA:** Students will be graded on the following:

- Participation: Students are expected to respect the teacher, their peers, and the classroom property. They are to be active and thoughtful participants in discussions, debates, games, and presentations. Additionally, students will be expected to have read the assigned works and be able to discuss them cogently.
- Essays, in-class journals, daily assignments, quizzes/tests, presentations, and other work, as assigned.

**GRADE SCALE:**

|    |         |    |        |
|----|---------|----|--------|
| A+ | 97-100% | C  | 73-76% |
| A  | 93-97%  | C- | 70-72% |
| A- | 90-92%  | D+ | 67-69% |
| B+ | 87-89%  | D  | 63-66% |
| B  | 83-86%  | D- | 60-62% |
| B- | 80-82%  | NC | 0-59%  |
| C+ | 77-79%  |    |        |

Note: An “A” is the highest grade that can be earned on report cards. “A+”s will show up as “A”s.



**SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED BY THE COURSE:** During the semester, the course will cover five areas of Language Arts: Reading, Writing, Grammar, Speech, and Spelling and Vocabulary. The theme of the tenth grade year is “The World Around Us – Cultural Literacy”. Throughout the semester, much of our reading and writing will help you explore this theme.

**SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED BY THE COURSE:** During the semester, the course will cover five areas of Language Arts: Reading, Writing, Grammar, Speech, and Spelling & Vocabulary. We will also cover three additional areas: Listening, Research and Presentation. The school themes of quarter one and two are “Know Yourself” and “Know Your Community” respectively. In keeping with this, the themes for the class are, “You Have Something Important to Say!” and “If Not Me, Then Who – Cultural Literacy.” Throughout the entire semester (quarters one and two), much of our reading, writing and presentation work will help you explore these themes.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Mutual respect is mandatory. Students will be expected to follow the school rules as outlined in the student handbook as well as my classroom rules & procedures which I will hand out and review the first week. Your behavior in class will affect your grade through participation points. Disruptive behavior will cause you to lose points. Frequent absences may also cause you to lose points.

**TARDIES/ABSENCES:** If you are not in class and in your seat when the bell rings, you are tardy. If you come to class 10 minutes after class begins, you are absent. Only a written excuse from an administrator, teacher, or security will negate a tardy or absence. Excused absences or tardies cause no loss of credit. Unexcused absences or tardies can cause loss of credit. My expectation is that you will be in the room and in your seat before the bell rings. You should be ready to participate and work when class begins.

**MAKE-UP WORK:** If you miss one or more days of class, you will be expected to make up the work you missed. You are responsible for obtaining any assignments, handouts, etc. that you may have missed. In order to find make-up work, do not start by asking the teacher. First, go to the file folder on the front wall labeled for your class period and pull out the work for the day(s) you were absent. Next, ask one or more of your classmates what happened in class the day you were gone. Get any notes or reminders from your classmates. If you are unable to find the appropriate make-up work or have additional questions, then you may ask the teacher at lunch or before or after school. Do not ask while the teacher is in the middle of a lesson. If you miss a quiz or test, it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up with the teacher. *For each day you are absent, you have one day to make up your missed work.*

**LATE WORK:** Turning assignments in after the due date will negatively affect your grade. Unless you have an excused absence, in which case you will be given one day per day of absence to make up your work (see make-up work), you will lose one grade level for each day your assignment is late. (ex. If you turn in an assignment that would have earned a B+ two days late, you will earn a D+.) *Also, there are some assignments that will be checked in class or reviewed the day they are due. These assignments will receive no credit unless turned in on time.* Please keep this policy in mind and get your work in on time...every time.

**A FEW WORDS ABOUT MISREPRESENTATION:** Plagiarism, cheating, and misrepresentation are not acceptable. Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas and/or writing as your own. It is also not using proper documentation or citation when using another person’s writing such as when doing an essay. Misrepresentation could cause you loss of credit on an assignment. Repeated plagiarism will be referred to the appropriate administrator.



**SUPPLIES:** A 3-ring notebook with dividers for class work, lined paper, pencils, pens. These should be brought to class everyday in addition to any worksheets, books, or handouts we are using. There will be in-class journals that will be kept in the class room and provided for the students. If the students prefer to use their own journal, that is acceptable as long as it stays in the classroom.

**CAVEAT:** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified promptly of any changes.