





ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Our Department's Goals

The English Department of South Lincoln is dedicated to fostering a student's love of language and creative expression. The Grade 9 courses introduce students to a variety of texts from a variety of time periods. Like any Arts course, the South Lincoln English curriculum facilitates the discovery of our world through creativity, exploring poetry, short fiction, plays and the media. Because it's so important to be a critical consumer of the written word in this information age, students are also equipped with tools to help them analyze the arguments of others, and form their own in response. Our department is a strong supporter of literacy and has worked hard to significantly improve our results in provincial testing over the years through both the organization of the courses and other offerings as well. R & R, for example, is an opportunity for students to sit down with a book or newspaper and read for the fun of it every Friday for twenty minutes. Through the library, an after-hours book club meets for warm cookies and good conversation.

Grade 9 Course Content

<p><i>The Novel</i></p> 	<p>Both our <u>Academic</u> and <u>Applied</u> courses study a novel which explores a variety of relevant themes and comments on social issues. Students are asked to respond through art projects, formal essays and poetry. We also implement "Literature Circles" in order to foster a student's love for sharing the reading experience.</p>
<p><i>The Short Story</i></p> 	<p>Through a study of this genre, students can experience the world through a narrator's eyes. Then, they are equipped with a variety of tools to express their own views through story, lyric and also media images.</p>
<p><i>The Play</i></p> 	<p>In Grade 9, the <u>Academic</u> level classes are given the opportunity to enter into the magic and mysteries of the Renaissance era through a study of Shakespeare. Students will learn about the time period through teacher lead discussion, visual mediums, written assignments and acting out scenes from the text.</p> <p>The <u>Applied</u> level courses also offer an opportunity for dramatic discovery. These students will find themselves embroiled in the middle of a tense courtroom drama and learn the secrets of crime detection and the meaning of truth.</p>
<p><i>Language Skills</i></p> 	<p>Special attention is given in all of our English courses to making the student a more effective communicator. To that end, a formal study of the mechanics of language is built into each unit of our course.</p>

Student Evaluation

- Students are prepared through the course of the year to write a final evaluation on the material covered. Also, they are led through the process of composing a formal research paper, from start to finish. Both of these skills will prove invaluable, as they are the building blocks for similar assignments to come. These projects will form their **summative evaluation**, with 20% allocated to the final exam and 10% to the research project.
- Students will also be evaluated on the basis of their understanding and response to literature through a variety of tests, journal entries and multimedia productions. This will contribute to 25% of their mark.
- The **writing portfolio** is also a key part of the course. This will contain all of the students' formal work, from the essay, to the short story to poetic works. The writing portfolio is worth 35% of the students' mark.
- Finally, the students' **language skills** will be evaluated with every finished project submitted, and will constitute 10% of their final grade.

English Flow Chart

