

8th Grade Language Arts

Mr. Coia

Room 206

Class website: <http://www.wildcatnet.lester-ms.pac.dodea.edu/public/default.aspx>
and www.mrcoia.com

Email ron.coia@pac.dodea.edu

Essential Objectives: Upon completion of the Language Arts 8 course, students should be able to:

- Write notes from information received aurally.
- Identify basic literary terms as they are used in the analysis of literature.
- Be aware of the sexism, racism and age bias.
- Write papers that include paragraphs composed of appropriate topic sentences and adequate supportive material, using a variety of sentence patterns.
- Write coherent answers on essay tests.
- Use words accurately and appropriately in writing and speaking.
- Discriminate among fact, fiction, opinion, assumption, and inference.
- Write in various modes for self-discovery, self-expression, and enjoyment.
- Differentiate between emotional and intellectual arguments in a discussion.
- Read books and prepare reports reviewing them.

To view the content standards for this course, visit

http://www.dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/DoDEA_Content_Stand.htm

To view the course description for this course, visit

<http://www.dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/tech/CourseDescriptions04-05/LAE201-231.htm>

Let's begin by examining some of the rules that I feel will help us make this a rich, rewarding time in this English class.

Class Rules and Procedures

Online Access: I will use the Internet to keep students and parents informed of the activities and progress of our class. I will update grades via GradeSpeed each Friday. In addition, I will post homework and attachments on both the Wildcatnet and on **www.mrcoia.com**. Each unit guide and handout will be posted. You are required to spend at least 10 minutes on the weekend looking at your grade, handouts, assignments, etc.

Late Work: Unless stated otherwise, late work is not accepted. This includes in-class assignments and homework. The assignment is due when you enter the class. If you do not have it then, you will not receive credit for it. Your work is due regardless of power outages, lack of printer ink, stolen computer, etc. Be responsible and plan ahead.

You will receive a coupon for two free late turn-ins. If you decide to use it, tear off one

and staple it to the top of the late assignment. Put it in the inbox in the the classroom by the next day (not the next class period).

Note-taking: Each class period requires you to have your notebook opened to your "Class Notes" section, dated at the top before the bell rings. You are expected to take notes on our class discussions, lectures, in-class reading, etc. Please do not expect me to tell you when to take notes. Take notes each class.

Attendance: You are expected to attend class every day and follow attendance guidelines as stated in the student handbook. Poor attendance, whether excused or unexcused, will negatively affect your grade.

Excused absences:

Since all of the assignments are given in class and online, you will have the same amount of time to complete the assignment as other students, not longer or shorter. You must get the appropriate materials by asking a student, checking the web site, or talking to me outside of class time. The start of class is not the appropriate time to get your missing information. I will post homework and handouts online.

Sports and other field trips: You are expected to get any work that you will miss and have it in at the same time as other students. Again, the internet will help you stay up-to-date with your work. For extended trips, please set up a meeting with me before you leave so that you can have it on your return.

Unexcused absences: Sorry, you cannot make-up the assignment or exam. Your consequence for skipping is a zero for the due assignment.

Note: Students are responsible to take quizzes and exams regardless of an absence prior to the test day. Talk to students or me when you are out. Again, all information will be online. Make-ups may be arranged only in the case of extenuating circumstances.

Extra Credit: There may be an additional assignment or two offered for you to earn extra credit. These extra points may help make up for a missing assignment. ***Work hard on the credit throughout the year, rather than stressing about the extra credit.***

Tardy Policy: You must be in your chair with all materials open on your desk when the bell rings. 3 tardies = detention.

Cheating & Plagiarism: You will receive a zero for the test or assignment, as well as a referral to the office. This zero cannot be made up. If you are unsure if you plagiarized something, use this simple rule: "Did someone else write this, and do I not have quotation marks around it?"

Bathroom breaks/ leaving the room: Please use the rest room, get a drink, etc. during passing time.

Food and Drink: Bottled water is the only food or drink allowed in class. Eat and drink before school and at lunch.

Electronics: No electronic devices are allowed in class. No phones, iPods, CD players, handheld games, etc. are permitted at any time. This is in compliance to the Lester Student Handbook.

Discussions: Class discussions and sharing are the cornerstone of this class. Be prepared to speak. Sitting quietly is not acceptable!

These rules are outlined so that you may do your part in creating an atmosphere of learning in our classroom.

Need Assistance?: I want you to succeed in class and will help you as much as I can. Seminar works best, along with before and after school. Let me know when you need some extra time. I'll be happy to meet with you to discuss assignments.

Required Supplies

Please have the following supplies for our next class meeting:

- a binder with three tabbed sections: Handouts, Class Notes, Homework.
- A journal as described in class. Be sure it is bound without a spiral. These are usually black marble, and cost around \$1 at the BX/PX. If money is an issue, please let me know.
- paper, pens, and pencils.
- A copy of the English 8 class standards.
- Your Lester planner is required in each class. You will start each period writing down the homework.

Grade Percentages

Here's how the grades will be determined according to DoDEA policy. There is no rounding up. You will need a 90% for an A, not an 89.9%.

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59 %	F

Grades are determined by total points, and there are no category percentages.

Language Arts 8
Mr. Coia

Here is your first homework assignment:

- Take this form home and review it with your parents. You and your parents will sign this page, and the Policy Sheet will go in your notebook. Return this signed page.
- Spend 15 minutes looking around the website at both Wildcatnet and www.mrcoia.com. Look at the homework page, handouts, and past student work. You will be expected to check in at least once per week, and more if you are absent.
- Purchase and prepare your required supplies for school. Bring them to class.
- Print off the English 8 standards that we will use for this course, and place in the Handouts section of your binder. (see link on class website)

Students:

I have read these rules and understand what Mr. Coia expects of me. **I have put a copy of the rules in the front of the Handouts section of the class binder** so that I can refer to them if I have a question.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Parents:

Please review these rules with your child. Also, please take a look at the online services so that you can stay informed of assignments and progress in class. I have sent home the first unit guide of assignments and content covering the first two weeks.

Please contact me if you have questions. I am looking forward to partner with you to have an excellent year in 8th Language Arts.

Regards,
Ron Coia

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Parent's email: _____

