

# English 9

Ms. Birring  
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## *Welcome to English 9*

My name is Ms. Birring and I would like to officially welcome you to back to school!

I am really excited to work with you this semester, and to learn together! In this course, we will work towards exploring the following “Big Ideas:”

Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.

Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.

Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.

In order to have a successful and fun semester, I have outlined some of the class expectations and key notes below!

### **Attendance**

Attendance is essential in preparing yourself for success in this course! If you are unable to attend class, please let me know through email. It will be your responsibility to catch up on the class work that you missed. Please find someone in the class that can be your “class buddy” and share the details of the class with you when you are away.  
Classroom Late Arrivals: Whenever possible, please come into class quietly and minimize disruption.

### **Electronics**

You are invited to bring electronic devices to class, especially during independent work periods. However, because of the discussion-based and collaborative format of our classes, cell-phones may be a distraction to your learning, the learning of others, and your teacher’s instruction. Therefore, I ask that you put your headphones and phones away during class time, unless directed otherwise. Thank you!! :D In the event that phones become an issue in class, you will be directed to set your phone in a designated space in the classroom.

### **Assessments**

Assessments will have set due dates. If you are unable to meet these due dates, please speak with me in advance and due dates may be negotiated – although this is not guaranteed. Extensions will only be granted through an in-person conversation. Assignments that receive an “Insufficient Evidence” (I.E.) will need to be re-submitted.

Overdue Assessments: If you do not meet a class deadline, you are expected to meet with me and you will be directed to work in my classroom (i.e before school, lunch, afterschool) until it has been submitted. Failure to complete an assessment, the absence of a conversation with me, and absence of a reasonable display of effort to use the time offered to complete the assessment will result in a contact home and/or meeting with admin.

Please note that “extra assessments” to “boost” your grade will not be granted. It is important that you display your learning in the formally organized assessments distributed in class. At the end of the semester, course completion days are set aside for failing students to prove that they have minimally met the course learning outcomes.

## Assessment

Throughout the course we will be engaging in activities and assignments that have formative and/or summative assessment goals.

### Formative Assessment

**Students will receive feedback that has no proficiency scale indicator attached to it.**

*Purpose: To help students practice and understand how they could improve their learning.*

### Summative Assessment

**Students will receive feedback that has a proficiency scale indicator attached to it.**

*Purpose: To determine the student's level of achievement in relation to the learning standards. These assessments will be used to determine marks for each formal reporting period.*

**Summative Assessments:** Summative Assessments will be organized in a portfolio as evidence of understanding, skill and learning. Please note that the proficiency scale will be used to communicate the student's level of achievement for all assessments. With direction, near the time of the reporting period, students will engage in a process of reflecting on all summative assessments and translating their proficiency scaled marks into a finalized letter grade.

All Summative assessments will be used to finalize your grades, although there will be some opportunities to highlight your strongest assessments. Please note that "re-doing" an assessment is not a possibility, as this is not a feasible option to provide equally amongst all students. Instead, assessment feedback should be revised and applied in future class assessments.

**Please refer to the scale breakdown below for a clear look at the assessment language that will be used throughout the course, and how it will translate into a letter grade for reporting periods.**

<b>Extending</b>  E   E+  <i>Demonstration of Understanding is Extending</i>	E+  E	A
<b>Proficient</b>  P  <i>Demonstration of Understanding is Proficient</i>	P	B
<b>Developing</b>  D   D+  <i>Demonstration of Understanding is Developing</i>	D+  D	C+  C
<b>Emerging</b>  Em  <i>Demonstration of Understanding is Emerging</i>	EM	C-
<b>Insufficient Evidence</b>  I.E.  <i>Understanding has not been demonstrated</i>	I.E	I

## Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

It is important that you submit your own work at all times! If you are borrowing ideas and/or information from other sources, that are not your own, then you must properly cite these sources. Academic dishonesty includes copying off of your peers and Chat GPT. I only want to see your work and your ideas! :D

## Teacher Availability

Outside of our designated class times, I will also be available in-person before school (~8:00) and afterschool (~3:30). This is the best time to receive extra one-on-one support. Although I am available on MS TEAMS, please note that our class is not “online” and therefore you are expected to be connecting with me in-person regarding class content, assessment questions, and for learning support.

## Students Needing Additional Support

If you are feeling overwhelmed and are finding the course materials and/or expectations difficult and/or unmanageable, please speak with me. I will help you as best as I can and I will direct you to some of the school’s support systems.

If you or your parent/guardian have any questions regarding the class and/or course outline, please send me an email.

Ms. Birring

**Ms. Birring’s Email:** birring\_s1@surreyschools.ca

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Block:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign below to confirm that you have understood the details of the course.*

*Student Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information:** *Please provide an updated email address that you would like to use for communication regarding your child’s progress, achievements, and behavior in our course.*

1. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_