

**GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE EXPECTATION SHEET**

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COURSE: Reading and Research
(Revised 6/07)

This course will stress the development of writing skills essential for college. It will include instruction and practice in the preparation of the research paper as well as in the writing of personal, argumentative, and persuasive essays. In addition, it will include individualized work in reading.

I. Research Skills

Students will be required to follow MLA guidelines and prepare a well-organized, original, 10-20 page research paper on a topic of their own choosing.

Students will also be asked to submit the sections of a research paper on various due dates: bibliographies, preliminary outline, note cards, sentence outline and rough drafts for this paper.

Students will be expected to confer at least weekly with the instructor during the research process.

II. Essay Writing

Students will prepare a series of essays, including the personal essay, and meet with the instructor for writing conferences.

III. Student/Teacher Writing Conferences

Students will be expected to have writing conferences once a quarter with the teacher. If the student and teacher do not share a mutually convenient free period, it is the student's responsibility to find a convenient time.

IV. Reading

Students will complete grammar, style, and vocabulary building assignments. The class will also read non-fiction that relates to the research topic. Students will take notes on their reading.

V. Homework

Depending on the writing skill being emphasized, long range and daily assignments will be given.

VI. Tests

Major tests will be given on English testing day. Unannounced quizzes may be given at any time.

VII. Grades

The grade will be based on papers, tests, quizzes, homework, and class participation. The research paper and individual essays will weigh heavily in the final grade.

VIII. Attendance Philosophy

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Cutting is not permitted. If students intentionally absent themselves from a class without a legitimate reason, they will not be entitled to make up any assignments or exams missed during that period. Intentional absences are a clear message that students are not interested in doing their best. Excessive illegal absence or any cutting will result in parental notification and will have a negative impact on how class participation will be factored into quarter and final grades. Attendance/participation will count as much as 20% of a student's grade.

IX. Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the thoughts, writings, and ideas of other people as one's own.

Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one's own work, the ideas, representations, or words of another or to permit another to present one's own work without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.