



Academic Reading Prep I Syllabus

Blaine High School

Instructor: Ashley Plank 763.506.6576 Ashley.Topp@ahschools.us

Welcome to Academic Reading Prep I; This trimester is going to be AWESOME! I am so excited to work with you and explore different reading skills and types of text. The purpose of this course is to build your reading confidence, efficiency, accuracy, and fluency while further developing your reading and comprehension skills.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions, email me, or come to me before or after school for any additional help you may need. I have an open door policy and will do all that I can to help you succeed. Come talk with me if you are struggling, confused, or need additional help. I am here to guide, encourage, and assist you in your learning and growth this trimester. I really enjoy teaching and getting to know my students. I will be one of your biggest fans and push you to be the best that you can be; get ready for the FUN! 😊

Academic Reading Prep I Course Overview

- Reading Skills (Vocabulary in Context, Main Idea, Implied Main Idea, Inferences, Nonfiction)
- Vocabulary Development (Words in Context, Words to Know)
- Reading Unit (Student Choice Texts + Guiding Reading & Discussions)
- Nonfiction Analysis (Reading of the Week, Text Features, Reading Efficiency)

Grading Breakdown

- 25% Reading Skills (and Vocabulary Development)
- 25% Reading Unit (and Vocabulary Development)
- 20% Nonfiction Analysis (and Vocabulary Development)
- 20% Tests/Quizzes (Final Unit Assessments)
- 10% Common Summative Assessment

Recommended Class Materials

- Reading Notebook or Binder (for notes/assignments)
- Reading Folder (you will leave this in the classroom)
- Writing Utensil

Academic Reading Prep I Course Texts

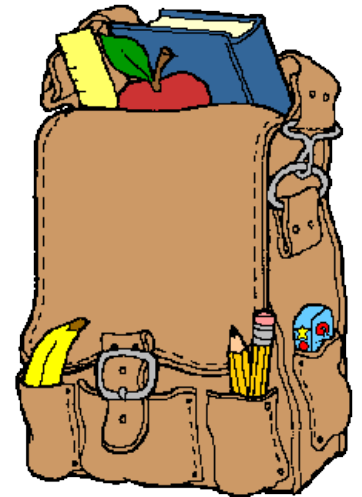
- Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills, 5th Edition (John Langan)
- Improving Vocabulary Skills, 4th Edition (Sherrie L. Nist)
- The Hate U Give* by Angela Thomas
- Additional Texts: Nonfiction Articles, Short Stories, Etc.

Google Classroom

We use Google Classroom almost daily in this course. Google Classroom is where important information about the class is posted, class assignments & notes are uploaded, and where students can view & complete class assignments.

Our Class Website

- Classroom.Google.Com
- Class Code: 2v81x3a



Our Roles in YOUR Education: As your teacher, I will do all I can to provide you with the tools for success in this class. But, I can only do so much; you must be motivated and an advocate for your own learning! I not only believe, **but expect** every student to grow and give their best. Grades, though important, are not the driving force of learning. **Rather, it is the growth and improvement of skills that results in being a successful student.** If you are struggling at any point, it is important that you communicate your worries with me so that we can work *together* to find a solution. **Learn to be a self-advocate now;** it will serve you greatly in the future. Please do not hesitate to ask questions, email, or come see me before or after school for any additional help that you may require. I am here to guide, encourage, and assist you in your learning and growth this trimester! ☺

Preparation/Classroom: Please come to class with class materials and be ready to start. It is very important to be in class on time as we have limited time together each day. For this reason, any student not in the room when the bell rings will be marked tardy. **Blaine High School has a strict tardy and truancy policy and I will follow it.** It is your responsibility to know and comply with these policies according to the student handbook guidelines. **NO BATHROOM passes will be given out the first five minutes of class, during reading or journal time, or the last five minutes of class.**

Cell Phones/Electronics: In today's society, many students have a cell phone and/or another electronic device. Cell phones and other electronics can be a great classroom tool. They can also be the largest distraction and barrier to learning. I expect that cell phones are tucked away in a locker, backpack, or pocket during class. **The use of cell phones is not permitted (or needed- as we have Chromebook access daily), except during designated work times.** I will confiscate an electronic device if it becomes a distraction and return it after class. Should an electronic device become a repeated issue, the device will be handed over to administration and returned when a parent/guardian comes to retrieve the device. We are here to *learn* and *grow* together, and this cannot happen when we are constantly distracted and disconnected because of electronic devices.

Absences: Students are responsible for any work missed the day of an absence. Please follow the steps below to assist in getting caught up in class:

1. Ask a fellow classmate or consult Google Classroom for what you missed
2. Check the class crate for handouts, copy notes from a classmate, or find any missing items on Google Classroom
3. If you have done all these steps and still have questions, see Mrs. Plank!

Late, Missing, and Incomplete Work: It is important that work be done on time and to the best of your ability. Please communicate with me should you fall behind or need additional assistance. **Learn to be a self-advocate** and speak with me **before** an assignment is due. I am much more understanding if you talk with me regarding an assignment before the day it is due. We will work together to help you succeed!

Grading: Grades are available online and updated as assignments are graded. This is a free, password-protected service to all students and parents. It is important to check your grades weekly, so you have an accurate understanding of your grade and do not fall behind.

Writing Lab/Bengal Junction: BHS has great programs to help students achieve success and receive assistance with school work after school.

Bengal Junction

Monday-Thursdays

2:30-4:30pm

After school homework time, help & tutors

*Sign up in the SSRC

Writing Lab

Designated Tuesdays-Thursdays (listen to announcements)

2:30-4:00pm

After school writing, speaking, presenting help (in any subject area)

*Meet in Computer Lab 157

