

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CONTINUUM/ OVERVIEW

Instructor: K. Harness
kharness@svsd.ca
734-4511 (ext. 2200)

English Language Arts

Language is a social and human means of representing, exploring, and communicating meaning. Language is a defining feature of culture and an unmistakable mark of personal identity. It is essential to thought and personal expression, to forming interpersonal relationships, and to functioning and contributing within a democratic society. Language is the primary instrument of thought and the primary basis of all communication.

The study of English language arts enables students to understand and appreciate language and to use it competently and confidently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction, and learning. Students become competent and confident users of all six language arts through many opportunities to listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent in a variety of combinations and through a wide range of relevant texts. In keeping with the literacy demands placed on them, students now learn to read and produce a wide range of texts.

English language arts instruction is concerned with the language uses of expressive (“the language of being and becoming), pragmatic (“the language of getting things done), and aesthetic (expressive language shaped and captured to represent experiences).

At the Grade 11 and 12 levels, the materials are divided as follows:

Transactional	70% Pragmatic/30% Aesthetic
Comprehensive	50% Pragmatic/50% Aesthetic
Literary	30% Pragmatic/70% Aesthetic

The Six Language Arts

English language arts instruction encompasses six strands:

- Reading
- Writing
- Viewing
- Representing
- Speaking
- Listening

Instruction in all six language arts equips students for effective participation in a technological society in which information, communication, arts, and entertainment are increasingly conveyed in language forms other than print.

English Language Arts – Learning Outcomes

Five general learning outcomes serve as the foundation for each of the English language arts curricula. The general learning outcomes are broad statements describing student learning. They are interrelated and interdependent.

The five general learning outcomes are:

1. To explore thoughts, ideas, feeling and experiences

- Consider merits of a range of ideas, observations, opinions, and emotions
- Assess diverse, challenging information and questions and alternative perspectives
- Explore how new knowledge, ideas, experiences, and perspectives reshape understanding of texts

2. To comprehend and respond critically to oral, print, and other media text

- Apply a broad repertoire of appropriate comprehension strategies to monitor and develop texts
- Use syntactic, semantic, graphophonic, and pragmatic cueing systems to construct and confirm meaning and interpret texts
- Evaluate the effect of forms and genres on content and purpose
- Create original texts to communicate ideas and enhance understanding of forms and techniques

3. To manage ideas and information

- Determine audience characteristics and needs, topics, and purpose to identify a range of primary and secondary information sources
- Use knowledge of text cues and organizational patterns to extract, infer, synthesize, organize and integrate ideas

4. To enhance the clarity and artistry of communication

- Consider audience, purpose, and context in evaluating and revising drafts to ensure appropriate content and language and to enhance precision, unity, and coherence
- Analyze and edit texts for word choice, grammatical structures, and register to achieve clarity, artistry, and effectiveness
- Know and apply capitalization and punctuation conventions

5. To celebrate and build community

- Use language to demonstrate openness and flexibility in working with others; listen attentively and encourage differing viewpoints, use tactful language to disagree and solve problems
- Recognize inclusive, respectful verbal and non-verbal language and appropriate tone
- Evaluate diverse ideas, factual evidence, and viewpoints to develop informed understanding of texts, others, and self

Assessment and Evaluation

Summative evaluation will be used to determine your grade. Summative evaluation will be categorized and weighted as follows:

Rich Performance Task (RPT) – creative writing, visual representations, presentations

Demonstrations – quizzes, journal responses, grammar sheets, vocabulary activities, small in class assignments that are handed in to show progress, oral reading

Essays – long answer, planned organized structured writing including essays, paragraphs, expository writing, comparative writing, analysis

Project – end of unit final representation of skills learned, group or individual

Tests - unit tests, summative testing

Exam – end of semester Process/Course Exams

Exam Weights

Grade 9 – 15%

Grade 10 – 15%

Grade 11 – 20%

Grade 12- 20% (Provincial Exam)

Weights for Categories for English on PowerSchool:

Category	Grade 12			Grade 11			Grade 10	Grade 9
	Lit	Comp	Trans	Lit	Comp	Trans	Foundation	Foundation
RPT	20	20	25	20	20	25	20	20
Demonstration	20	25	25	20	25	25	25	25
Organized Writing	20	15	10	20	15	10	20	20
Tests	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Exam	20	20	20	20	20	20	15	15
Project	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

All summative assignments must be completed in order to earn your credit.

Assignments

Summative assignments are those which are designed to showcase your understanding of course content to reveal mastery. Summative assignments are weighted higher than other assignments and fall into the categories of rich performance tasks, essays, projects, tests, and exams. You will need to do well on these assignments to maintain a passing grade. Demonstration assignments are formative assignments; these assignments are designed to give you practice and to help you prepare for success.

In accordance with the Swan Valley School Division Assessment of Learning Policy, at least 80% of work for summative assessment must be completed by the student in the presence of the teacher.

Late Assignments and Missing Assignments

The Provincial Assessment Policy Kindergarten to Grade 12 states:

“... students are ultimately responsible for the timely completion of their assignments and for knowing that there are consequences for failure to adhere to those parameters.”

This resource is also available on the Manitoba Education website at:<www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/publications.html>.

Students must understand that there will be consequences for not completing assignments that provide evidence of learning or for submitting those assignments late. Assignment dates will be clearly stated and noted on PowerSchool. Students should make every effort to complete assignments on time. If a student cannot meet a due date because of exceptional circumstances such as illness, hospitalization, family medical, or emergency situations, he/she must meet with the teacher to establish a timeline for completion.

According to the SVRSS guidelines, the policy for late/missing assignments will apply:

If summative assignments are not complete by the due date, the following steps may be initiated:

- Dialogue with the student and parents regarding the late or incomplete evidence this may occur in a formal meeting to identify if the student requires additional assistance in understanding the material or the assessment task.
- Developing an agreement with the student, parent and the teacher indicating a reasonable date when the student product will be completed and given to the teacher or provide alternate assessment tasks that accommodate diverse learning needs.

If an assignment is not completed and handed in according to the student/parent/teacher plan, and there is no evidence of student learning for that particular learning outcome, teachers will use their professional judgment as to how to respond. This may include a deduction of marks for late or missing assignments; students failing to successfully master the essential learning outcomes during the academic year may be granted an Incomplete (IN) or failing grade.

Once the unit is over, and all the steps have been taken, the assignments for that unit are considered closed. Students will not be permitted to hand in late or overdue assignments once the unit is complete and all the steps have been followed accordingly.

Grade 11 Comprehensive Focus
Instructor: K. Harness

Overview:

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to discover and create a broad range of texts along the continuum of pragmatic (non-fiction), aesthetic (fiction), and expressive language uses. Each unit of work will contain texts and activities of various modes. Pragmatic and aesthetic texts will be explored in approximate balance.

Goal:

The goal of this course is to study language arts with the purpose of functioning effectively in your community and culture. You will engage in the following objectives: understanding texts, appreciating texts, enjoying texts, communication and interacting with others, solving problems, thinking critically, and making informed choices that will enhance the quality of your life. You will explore oral, print, and visual texts and language elements including patterns, mood, symbolism, symmetry, transitions, focus, tone and emphasis.

This course will include a variety of reading materials including: novels, short stories, poetry, speeches, articles, essays, visual texts and film. Creativity in writing and expression is encouraged as is analysis and critical thinking.

Students will meet the curriculum outcomes through reading, writing, viewing, listening, speaking and representing.

Remember to always employ good work habits and pay attention to due dates. Effort is always required, so the expectation is that you are putting forth your best effort in all assignments. Be mindful of using your own ideas in your writing. If you do use others ideas, you are required to cite the source that you used. We will continue practice and review with MLA formatting.

Assignments- At the end of each unit, the assignments that are incomplete will be marked as zero. You must complete your assignments within the unit. Failure to do so may result in lack of completion of learning outcomes. You must demonstrate completion of all learning outcomes and have an overall average of at least 50% to pass the course.

Homework- Homework helps you to practice and prepare for your next class. Any assignment given in class and not completed in class will be considered homework. Assigned reading will also be given as homework, especially during the novel study unit. Homework is a formative assignment that at times will be recorded.

Tests- There will be a test at the end of each unit, and periodic quizzes along the way. Passing mark of 50% is required. If you are absent on a test or quiz day, you must provide a note from a parent, guardian, or doctor to account for your absence.

Content:

1. Grammar: various grammar activities from a variety of sources including structured paragraph and essay writing.
2. Drama: Macbeth
3. Novel Study
4. Poetry- analyzing and applying various techniques
5. Independent novel study- if time permits

Attendance:

Late arrival and truants will be recorded daily. The SVRSS attendance policy will apply.

SVSD Digital Citizenship Policy:

According to the Digital Citizenship Policy 203 and Cell Phone Use Policy 230,

“Students [in Senior Years & Post-Secondary] are banned from using personal devices during class time unless directed by the teacher for an education activity. Swan Valley School Division is committed to equitable access to all learning activities by students, so Divisional ICT devices will always be the first option provided to students.”

“The SVSD is not responsible for loss/theft/damages incurred to personal ICT devices including physical or data damage.”

Electronic Device Classroom Policy:

- **Respectful use:** Personal devices (phones, laptops, smart watches, e-readers, tablets, etc.) should be on silent & either in your locker or placed in the classroom’s designated safe area at the start of class; headphones/air pods/ear buds must be removed as well
- **During absences:** When leaving the classroom for any reason, devices are to be left behind, ensuring they don’t become a distraction
- **Classroom resources:** You’ll have access to school-issued devices to help with any activities or assignments during class

AI Use Policy

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI and AI) are becoming increasingly common in our world. In all English courses, the goal is to teach students how to think critically and explore the world beyond themselves through a variety of lenses. This exploration uses a variety of texts and formats and often includes process-based work as an assessment.

Due to the capabilities of AI to assist with producing written work, the following is the policy on AI use in the English department at SVRSS:

- Any use of AI should be evaluated for bias, clarity and correctness of information.
- AI is not to replace your independent work. Assignments will reflect your own thoughts, understandings and connections. Any submitted work that is not your own (plagiarized or use of AI) will result in a mark of zero.

- Any use of AI for assistance with assignments must be properly documented.
 - AI use for idea generation must be cited and a link provided to the conversation.
 - AI use for refinement and polishing of written work must be cited, and original text input must be included with the final submission.

If a student is suspected of using AI for assignment completion, a meeting will be held with the teacher and/or administration, and a plan will be made.

Follow the SVRSS policy for absences, school appropriate dress, etc.

** This course outline is subject to change at any time according to the discretion of the teacher*

Please contact me at kharness@svsd.ca or call my class number at 204 734 4511 ext. 2200 if you or your parents / guardians require further clarification.