

**Foundations in Composition
ENG339 (1 Graduation Credit)**

Tricia Firzloff & Dan Keller Room D157

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” –Aristotle
We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards.
Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student.

Course Description

Foundations in Composition is a course that develops basic writing, listening, and thinking skills at a pace designed for students who require additional assistance. Emphasis is placed on the writing process which stresses the steps of pre-writing, composing, revising and proofreading. This course will cover a variety of structured writing experiences including but not limited to persuasive, research, exposition and literary analysis.

COMMENT: This course may not fulfill admission requirements for four-year institutions.

Alignment to the Iowa Core

Instruction, learning, and assessment are built primarily on the 11th-12th grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Language Strands.

Iowa Core Standards

Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text (12.2)

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 3: Writing (12.1-12.8, 12.10)

Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Standard 4: Speaking and Listening (12.2-12.4, 12.6, 12IA5, 12IA.7)

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

Standard 5: Language (12.1-12.3, 12.6)

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Assessments

Formative/Summative Assessments will be used, and may include but are not limited to:

- Graphic Organizers
- Formal & Informal Writing
- Reflective Responses
- Peer Reviews
- Short Essay & Extended Writing Activities
- No Red Ink (www.noredink.com)
- Grammar Activities
- Semester Exam

Content

Essays, narrative, research paper, expository, compare/contrast, descriptive, multi-genre.

Instructional Strategies

- Individual & Group Instruction
- Projects and Presentations/Technologically Supported
- Guided & Independent Practice

- Grammar Activities
- Peer Sharing/Editing

EXPECTATIONS:

Materials

Students are responsible for bringing the following supplies to class each day: paper, pen and pencil, binder or folder, agenda, and completed homework.

Late Work

Formative Assessments are not accepted after the Summative Assessment has been finalized.

Make-up Work

Students are responsible for make-up work. Students may **not** complete missing work for past units unless there are extenuating circumstances which have been cleared. *(This may change depending on both the length of and reason for the absence).*

Behavior

- High Expectations=Low Tolerance
- Mature & appropriate discussions
- Attendance is crucial
- Cell phones & electronic devices are NOT allowed in class without permission
- Per District expectation, students are required to wear their student id at school at all times

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating is forbidden. This includes plagiarism, blatant copying, “borrowing” work, and submitting identical work for two or more different courses. Students involved will be given a zero for the assignment, a parent/guardian contact will be made, and other disciplinary action may be taken. Use of a cell phone or other electronic devices without permission, including ear buds, will be considered as cheating during tests, quizzes, and other formal assessments.

Communication

Assignments and daily expectations will be communicated in class. Communication is vital; any problem can be solved if the proper lines of communication are kept open.

Tardy Policy

Please be in your desk before the bell rings. See your agenda for the school tardy policy. This will be strictly enforced.

Grading Scale

A 93-100% **B** 83-86% **C** 73-77% **D** 63-66%

A- 90-92% **B-** 80-82% **C-** 70-72% **D-** 60-62%

B+ 87-89% **C+** 77-79% **D+** 67-69% **F** 59%

Extra credit is not and will not be available under any circumstances. We do not participate in, “end of the semester scramble”, you will not be provided with additional opportunities at the end of the semester if you chose not to take advantage of the opportunities during the semester.

Communication

E-Mail: tfirzlaff@dbqschools.org

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Available for help: Before or after school or prep