

Mr. Royster's Advanced Citizenship Syllabus - WELCOME!!!

Contact Information:

Web site: <http://www.staff.fcps.net/rroyster/> (Check often for important updates/information!)

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Required Materials EVERYDAY:

- 1" or 1 ½" Three-ring binder (firm, any color) (for this subject only) (anything else will lose points)
- Composition Book (for notes, writing responses, activities)
- 5 Tab Dividers
- Pencil (you are responsible for always having a pencil)
- Time Tracker or Planner

Grade Calculation:

• I use the "point" system. It doesn't matter how you earn them since all points are the same.

EX: 20 points on homework equals 20 points on a test.

- Assignments for the semester are split into Tier 1 (little stuff – 40%) and Tier 2 (big stuff – 60%)
- (Tier 1) Homework, class work, planner checks..... 20% (20 assignments @ 20 pts each = 400 pts)
- (Tier 1) Open Response Questions..... 20% (8 ORQs @ 50 pts each = 400 pts)
- (Tier 2) Notebook Checks..... 10% (4 checks @ 50 pts each = 200 pts)
- (Tier 2) Tests..... 25% (5 tests @ 100 pts each = 500 pts)
- (Tier 2) Projects..... 5% (2 projects @ 50 pts each = 100 pts)
- (Tier 2) Portfolio Piece..... 10% (1 major writing piece = 200 points)
- (Tier 2) Community Service..... 10% (5 hours + assignments = 200 points)

Teacher-Student Relationship: (I want you to have pride and be successful)

- I want each student to be challenged and successful! That is what I am here for.
- The key to being successful is to apply the principles of Dunbar P.R.I.D.E.

Daily Work Ethic: (be Prepared)

- I have never, never, never met a student who tried and was not successful in my class.
- Have all work, materials and supplies everyday.
- Use your planner daily. These will be graded every unit.
- FAILURE TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS IS THE MOST CONSISTENT BARRIER TO SUCCESS.

Class Behavior: (be Respectful)

- Always be attentive in class and LISTEN. Don't talk unless it is your turn.
- Cell phones, CD players, MP3 Players, PSPs, etc. are absolutely forbidden and must be kept OFF and OUT OF SIGHT to avoid confiscation until the end of the day for the first offense.
- Do not even try to sleep - NO EXCEPTIONS. This is extremely rude. There is NEVER a "free day".

Participate as though your grade depends on it: (be Involved)

- Good attendance is VERY important. We cover a lot every day. Ask questions & volunteer.
- You are expected to be IN YOUR SEAT BEFORE the hall clock reads class start time.
- Get your notebook and planner out BEFORE class begins and be ready to start.
- You get four hall pass vouchers a semester. Save these for emergencies! If you use or lose these, you are done for the semester! You may not use a hall pass the first or last 10 minutes of class. You may not borrow any or have extra. You must fill out the voucher completely before leaving class.

Do what needs to be done consistently: (be Dependable)

- Whenever you need help - ASK! I want to help you succeed.
- Excessive spelling errors will result in a lowering of your grade by 10%.
- Papers without your first and last name and class period will result in a lowering of your grade by 10%.
- We work everyday, so if you are absent YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MAKEUP WORK.
- Assignments, notes, and handouts are available on my website. If not, you get 5 bonus points!!
- Handouts only are also available in the handout tote in the front of the class.
- Class time will not be taken to discuss make-up work with an individual student but I will gladly meet with students before or after school to discuss make-up work.
- Any assignment may be turned in late during the current six weeks for a maximum grade of 70%.
- STUDENTS WITH LOW GRADES MAY BE ASSIGNED A SATURDAY SCHOOL.

Do the right thing: (be Ethical)

- Everyone makes mistakes; the key is what you do afterwards. In order to recover from a mistake, you should accept responsibility for it, apologize if you wronged someone, find out what you can do to fix the mistake, and then fix it. Doing this allows everyone involved to put the mistake in the past.
- Keep in mind that mistakes done on purpose are much different than mistakes done on accident.
- Student's who purposely create a difficult or hostile learning environment will be dealt with.
- It is NEVER acceptable to copy the words or ideas of another student on a graded assignment unless you have been given SPECIFIC instructions to work together. This is plagiarism.
- Work that is copied in whole or in part is not acceptable. Cheating on a test may result in a zero grade. Cheating on another assignment may result having to redo the assignment for a late grade.

Miscellaneous:

- If you forget your pencil, you may BORROW one from the front table.
- No drinks are allowed with the exception of water in a closed container.
- No food or candy except gum (quiet and unseen). Snack time is during class change - not in class.
- No perfumes or scented lotions may be used in class.
- If an assignment is due or a test is scheduled and school is cancelled because of severe weather, that assignment will be due or the test taken on the next scheduled class day.
- DO NOT use brightly colored ink on graded assignments - black or blue only.
- DO NOT use a spiral notebook for any reason.
- DO NOT pop chewing gum or make other distracting noises such as desk drumming.
- DO write neatly.

Note: These rules represent the climate and culture of the class. As such, it is not a complete list and can never be a complete list. They are subject to change. When in doubt, students should reflect upon the core principles of PRIDE...

A Note About The All Advanced Classes...

For two years now, we have not offered Citizenship at the general level. This has been a tremendous success! I understand that some are concerned the upper students won't be challenged and the lower students will fall behind. Let me assure you that the evidence does not bear this out. The number of A's has not gone up however the number of F's has gone down! While I am not totally satisfied with the results yet, I believe we are clearly on the path of success. My goal is to challenge every student and for us to learn to live together is this most amazing democracy. I do not believe segregation into advanced and general levels accomplishes this goal. It is difficult to accomplish this balancing act as a teacher and certainly it requires hard work from me, but I have a firm conviction that the morally correct path for us is to learn about our government in the same way we live it - together.

Please DETACH and RETURN this page.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the goals, expectations, and policies outlined in Mr. Royster's Advanced Citizenship Syllabus.

Student Name (PRINT)

Student Signature

Parent Name (PRINT)

Parent Signature

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW IF NECESSARY.

Daytime Phone Number

Evening Phone Number

Parent(s) Email Address (please write with extra care!)

Parent(s) Mailing Address (please write with extra care!)

For Parents Only:

If there is anything else I need to know such as health issues, prior educational experiences, special needs, talents, goals, just whatever - feel free to include it here if you think it is important. Also, if you have any special questions, concerns, or comments, you may put these here also.

