

# **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, not flimsy) (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. Take total points earned and divide by total points possible. Points are points. 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. It takes five homework assignments to equal one test.
- Assignments for the semester are split into Tier 1 (little stuff – 40%) and Tier 2 (big stuff – 60%)

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|---|-----|--|
| (1) Homework, class work, planner checks..... | 20% | (20 assignments @ 20 pts each = 400 pts) |
| (1) Open Response Questions.....              | 20% | (8 ORQs @ 50 pts each = 400 pts)         |
| (2) Notebook Checks.....                      | 10% | (4 checks @ 50 pts each = 200 pts)       |
| (2) Tests.....                                | 25% | (5 tests @ 100 pts each = 500 pts)       |
| (2) Projects.....                             | 5%  | (2 projects @ 50 pts each = 100 pts)     |
| (2) Portfolio Piece.....                      | 10% | (1 major writing piece = 200 points)     |
| (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 successful! That is what I am here for.
- The key to being successful is to apply the principles of Dunbar PRIDE.
- I am at Dunbar about an hour before and an hour after normal school hours on most days. You may see me at these times for individual help and personal issues.
- I will enforce the Dunbar code of conduct and freshman expectations fully because I believe in them.

## **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. Failure to use your planner is the surest sign of lack of effort. You **MUST** write down the specific topic of the class and the homework. These will be graded every unit.
- Have your work when it is due or if you forget, turn it in late following the late work rules.

## **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.
- Class rules are subject to change depending on the behavior of the class as a whole.
- Have excellent manners. I will often say "please" and "thank you" and "sir" or "ma'am" to you. Speaking equally respectful to me makes everything go much smoother.
- 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.
- Asking questions, volunteering, and participating in small group activities will make the class more interesting and result in a higher grade.
- Putting up materials early is a sure sign you are not properly involved and it is disrespectful.
- Be prepared for instruction from the beginning of the class to the end. I will instruct you when to put up materials and allow time for dismissal.
- Class will begin RIGHT ON TIME. You are expected to be IN YOUR SEAT when class begins.
- Get pencils, pens, notebooks, homework, etc. out and ready BEFORE class begins.
- You get four hall passes a semester for use in the rarest of emergencies only. If you use or lose these, you are done for the semester! Minimizing hall passes keeps everyone involved.
- You may not use a hall pass during the first or last 10 minutes of class or at other inappropriate times.
- Drills (fire, severe weather, security, etc.) are to be taken seriously. If we must go outside, stay with me. Attendance will be taken.

### **Do what needs to be done consistently: (be dependable)**

- This is probably the hardest of the Guidelines For Success to accomplish.
- Whenever you need help - ASK! I want to help you succeed.
- If you are having trouble being successful regularly let's figure it out and fix it together.
- Correct spelling is important! On all assignments with available resources, correct spelling is required. Excessive spelling errors will result in a lowering of your grade by 10%.
- All papers turned in must have a student's first and last name, date, and class period. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your grade by 10%.
- We work in class everyday, so if you are absent you must get your makeup work.
- Assignments, notes, and handouts are available on my website. If not, you get 5 bonus points!!
- Handouts 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. It simply isn't fair to stop the entire class to deal with this kind of issue.
- Any student who forgets an assignment for any reason may turn it in the VERY NEXT CLASS for a maximum grade of 75%.
- If you still forget to turn it in, you may turn the work in during the current six week's grading period for a maximum grade of 68%. (Assignments that earned their late status during the last week of the six week's period will be carried over to the next grading period.)
- STUDENTS WHO HAVE A "D" OR "F" AVERAGE MUST COME TO A MANDATORY TUTORIAL SESSION ONCE A WEEK UNTIL THE AVERAGE IS AT LEAST A "C".
- Other interventions (extra credit, contracts, mentoring, parent conferences, letters home, etc.) will be implemented, as the teacher believes is appropriate.

### **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.
- Academic awards will be based on conduct, achievement, and interest in the subject matter. The student with the highest grade is not necessarily the one who will receive an award.
- 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.
- DO respect my supplies and not vandalize or take items from the classroom.

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.

