

## 7th Grade English Writing Lab - Course Explanation and Expectations

North Zulch High School Fall - 2025-2026

Caryl Miller-Compton  
Room 615

Conference: 9th period

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### Course overview

Welcome to 7th grade English Writing Lab! The ability to read and write well prepares students for lifelong success. We will improve our grammar skills and practice techniques to become more proficient writers. We will work in conjunction with your 7th Grade English RLA class. All students will be expected to read and write independently during class.

### Topics and Progression

The focus of this course is to develop basic writing skills that will be used both in school and after graduation. Our semester will be structured as follows:

- Writing purpose
- Basic grammar components
- Parts of speech and their purpose
- Sentences construction and variety
  - Mentor sentence
- Building a better paragraph
  - Revision decisions

### Classroom Expectations

I have very high expectations for my students and work hard to ensure that all students are successful. But ultimately, you are responsible for your performance in my class.

1. Be responsible and have work and materials every day.
2. Be respectful of classmates, visitors, and me at all times.
3. Be ready to learn and participate.
4. Complete all work in a timely fashion.
5. Follow all NZISD rules listed in the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.
6. Food and drink (with the exception of water in a see-through container) are not allowed.

### Required Materials

- 3 colors of highlighters
- Pens/Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Your NZ issued computer and charger, *plug in* earphones– NO earbuds.

### Technology Use

We will go as paperless as possible this year, so **it is important that your school-provided chromebook or laptop be charged and ready to go each day.** Technology use is restricted to class activities ONLY in order to prevent additional distractions in the classroom. State law prohibits cell phone use.

### Grades, Extra Credit, & Late Work Policy Grades

Homework and daily grades account for 60% of your grade; projects, essays, and tests account for 40% of your grade. Students will have a minimum of 10 daily grades (discussion, classwork, homework) and 3 major assignments (projects, essays, tests) each grading period.

Due dates for assignments will be provided at the time they are assigned. Students should complete work in a timely manner. Students will receive the required time to make up assignments for which they are absent. Please communicate in a timely fashion if you need help with a particular assignment.

Late work will be assessed the following penalties:

- 1 day late – 90% of the value of the graded assignment
- 2 days late – 80% of the value of the graded assignment
- 3 days late – 70% of the value of the graded assignment
- No late work will be accepted after 3 days and will result in a 0.

Extra credit is not an option as it creates more work for students and the teacher. Complete assigned work, and there will be no reason to request extra grading options.

### **Communication**

My primary mode of communication will be email and google classroom. We will practice composing and responding to emails early in the semester. This will enrich the writing skills that you will utilize throughout the year.

Parents and guardians, I will use email and Parent Square to contact you when necessary; please be in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Individual help**

Seek help from me if you find you are struggling. **I want you to succeed and will help you do so.** I am available before or after school as long as you schedule time with me in advance. Please do not schedule a time and then not show up.

### **Semester at a glance**

**Writing:** Students review the initial stages of the writing process with a focus on planning and drafting. Students engage in writing as a recursive process as they brainstorm, draft, revise, edit, and publish an original personal narrative, apply author's craft learned during reading comprehension activities and assignments to their own writing

I look forward to getting to know each of you this year.