

# English Language Arts 9

## Course Overview and Syllabus

---

**Course Number:** ELA3009CA

**Grade level:** 9

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

**Credits:** 1.0

### Course Description

This freshman-year English course invites students to explore diverse texts organized into thematic units. Students engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts, both classic and contemporary. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction, students master comprehension and literary-analysis strategies. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are activities that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills and produce clear, coherent writing. Students read a range of classic texts including Homer’s *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, and Richard Connell’s “The Most Dangerous Game.” They also study short but complex texts, including influential speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ronald Reagan. Contemporary texts by Richard Preston, Julia Alvarez, and Maya Angelou round out the course.

### Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Analyze foundational works of literature and identify and describe their common elements.
- Analyze seminal works of literary nonfiction and evaluate their structures and reasoning.
- Analyze how an author’s stylistic choices affect the development and delivery of a text.
- Write narrative, argumentative, and informative essays using the writing process.
- Identify and apply Standard English and correct grammatical usage.

The course objectives are implemented throughout specific lessons, which include examples of authentic, historic, and contemporary texts, and focus on grade-level writing and grammar skills.

The lesson objectives are assessed through assignments, quizzes, unit tests, and cumulative exams. Writing is assessed through short writing applications as well as full essay development.

## Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately five to seven hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

## Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

## Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Essays	15%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Projects	5%

## Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** Mythology
- Unit 2:** Writer’s Workshop: Writing a Narrative about Overcoming a Challenge
- Unit 3:** The Epic Hero’s Quest: *The Odyssey* – Part One
- Unit 4:** The Epic Hero’s Quest: *The Odyssey* – Part Two
- Unit 5:** Writer’s Workshop: Researching and Writing about a Mythical Character
- Unit 6:** Individuality and Conformity
- Unit 7:** I know Why the Caged Bird Sings
- Unit 8:** Nature and the Environment
- Unit 9:** Writer’s Workshop: Writing an Argumentative Essay about Fire Prevention
- Unit 10:** Making a Difference
- Unit 11:** Caring
- Unit 12:** Writer’s Workshop: Writing and Informative Essay about Making Sacrifices
- Unit 13:** Tragedy and Drama: *Romeo and Juliet* – Part One
- Unit 14:** Tragedy and Drama: *Romeo and Juliet* – Part Two
- Unit 15:** Mystery and Suspense
- Unit 16:** Writer’s Workshop: Writing a Literary Analysis Through the Lens of a Quotation
- Unit 17:** Espionage and Intrigue
- Unit 18:** Fighting for Equality
- Unit 19:** Unity and Division