**ELA Guidelines & Expectations**

**Expectations as Part of the Profile of a Graduate:**

In order to equip you with skills for life, our goal is to create effective communicators who can adapt their communication style to the audience, who can prioritize the needs of others while accepting responsibility for themselves and become accountable for their own actions.

1. We will read, watch and discuss a variety of topics in our class this year because we are evaluating how a variety of people from different cultures, creeds, time-periods, backgrounds, and work-fields argue about the world around them through their own expressions. These skills are mandatory skills assigned by the State of Texas through its Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) that we are required to help high school students learn. As a class, we want you to make your own inferences and opinions and share them. We will discuss, read & write about a variety of topics that may be controversial to you. In some cases, you may be exposed to ideas that are contrary to your own beliefs. The goal is to teach you how to communicate in a constructive dialogue using concrete details, various argumentative strategies, and facts, not to change your personal beliefs. In our efforts to help create constructive discourse, we may watch or read a piece of text that could contain potential questionable language, ideas, or material to you. However, we will teach you how to analyze rhetoric and create your own arguments while exposing you to a variety of ideas from different cultures, creeds, backgrounds, and time periods that will help you learn and understand a variety of perspectives. We are teaching rhetoric. There will be more than one side of every issue/argument. You need to understand each side as well as the issue’s historical evolution to be able to evaluate how and why.

***It is your job to inform you teacher of any issues, ideas or language that make you uncomfortable to help us create a safe and trusting classroom environment.***

* You need to be open to other people’s ideas.
* If you do not agree with the ideas, then your job is to listen to the other side’s argument and understand, explain and argue how they put that argument together.
* You can look for faults in the way arguments are constructed.
* Your job is not to put down the other side. Putting down others repeatedly will result in disciplinary action.
* Your job is to take these new ideas and form your own argument from what you know.
* If you feel strongly about participating in an activity with the topic we are addressing, please tell me ahead of time so we can discuss any concerns. If necessary, we can provide an alternative assignment.

**Papers**

\*To be accepted, all major papers must ***be typed, double-spaced and in MLA format*.** Any assignments of two or more pages must be stapled. Unless specified by your teacher.   
\* All papers turned in should have the proper MLA heading in the top left hand corner of page 1 of your paper.

Your Name Example: Jackson Spence

My Name: Ms. Murray

English IV- period# English I Period #

Day Month Year 25 August 2020 (notice date is inverted)

On any subsequent page you will have a MLA Header in the top right hand margin with last name and page number. If you know more than one student has your last name put your first initial before your last name.

(example) L. Name 2

**ELA English Syllabus & Class Contract 2020-2021**

The rules for this class need to stay in the binder of each student and should be brought to class every day. It should be the first thing in the binder with your Syllabus: Students need to initial by every heading in bold and sign below. This acknowledges that the syllabus has been read and explained to the student and that the student understands everything within the syllabus. Parents please initial by the bold heading as well. Parents please fill out and sign the information below. We will keep these forms all year. If you switch teachers, you need to collect your signed form from you teacher and bring this to your new teacher.

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student/Parent/Teacher Agreement For English III or English IV (Circle correct one)**

*By signing this paper, I understand that I have read and am responsible & accountable for all of the information in the English III or ELA IV Syllabus*

Parent’s Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you and times: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Technology Access:**

I currently have access to technology at home including Internet, computer, cell-phone or printer \_\_\_\_\_\_

I have limited access to technology at home. \_\_\_\_\_

I currently do not have access to technology at home. \_\_\_\_\_

Help me help you by listing your technology needs below.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If there are any novels or subject matters you have concerns reading. watching or discussing in class, please inform me as soon as possible so that I can provide an alternative assignment. Please let me know here, in person, or send me an email to the address below.

If you have any questions, please email me at

[jennifer.murray@fortbendisd.com](mailto:jennifer.murray@fortbendisd.com) , [Austin.curtis@fortbendisd.com](mailto:Austin.curtis@fortbendisd.com), Shannen.soffar@fortbendisd.com

Include a brief description of your personality type and how that makes you a more compassionate darling of a human!!!