

Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

Language Arts 127

2012-2013

Course Description:

The primary goal of Language Arts class is to develop the student's ability to clearly and effectively express themselves in various forms of written and oral communication. Study is centered on developing the student's writing skills through continual writing activities in a writer's workshop setting. Using the Write Traits as their guide, students will learn to express themselves in various modes of writing, such as: informative, persuasive, creative and expository. Writing topics will vary throughout the year, and students will often have the opportunity to explore topics of their interest and choosing. Oral presentation skills are developed through regular classroom presentations and discussions, as well as through in-class projects.

Students are graded on achievement, but are given ample opportunity to revise their work. Writing assignments are graded using a rubric. Effort, class participation, and homework and project completion are key to academic success in this class.

Course Content:

Major units of study include:

Autobiography Unit
Journalism Unit
Grammar Study
Vocabulary Study
PSSA/Writing Prompt Preparation
Tall Tale Unit
Descriptive Writing (Life Moments) Unit
Poetry Unit

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Writing and Grammar: Communication in Action, Prentice Hall, 2004

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all necessary materials and complete all assignments on time. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions and small group activities.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on homework assignment, quizzes, tests, essays, projects, and in-class activities.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There is no required summer reading for this course.