

# 9th Grade English Language Arts

**Teachers:** Ms. Robinson, Ms. Goneze, Ms. Orchard, Ms. Miller

## Essential Year-Long Question:

“How can I use my pen, my mind, and my tongue to improve my condition and the condition of society?”

## Course Overview

Welcome to 9th Grade English Language Arts! This year, you’ll explore how writing, reading, speaking, and listening can help you understand yourself and the world around you. Through storytelling, theater, podcasts, book clubs, and research, you’ll learn how to express your ideas with clarity, creativity, and purpose. We’ll write, revise, collaborate, perform, and reflect—all while building skills that prepare you for college and beyond.

## Grading Overview

- Writing Projects: 50%
- Reading & Discussion: 25%
- Vocabulary & Quizzes: 25%

Semester One	Semester Two
<p><b>Marking Period 1:</b> Personal Narrative – “Our Lives Are Worth Writing About”</p> <p><b>Essential Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What can we learn from the lessons life teaches us?</li><li>• What life experiences are worth sharing with others?</li></ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Writing and revising personal narratives, using dialogue, pacing, and inner thinking.</p> <p><b>Key Standards:</b> 9-10W3, 9-10R1–R3, 9-10L4</p>	<p><b>Marking Period 4:</b> Butler Book Clubs – “Science Fiction and Society”</p> <p><b>Essential Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does science fiction help us explore real-world issues?</li><li>• Why is book club discussion valuable?</li></ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Analyzing themes, symbols, and characters; connecting fiction to real-world issues; leading discussions.</p> <p><b>Key Standards:</b> 9-10R1–R9, 9-10W1–W3, 9-10SL1–SL4</p>
<p><b>Marking Period 2:</b> Atlantic Theatre Company – “Staging Success”</p> <p><b>Essential Questions:</b></p>	<p><b>Marking Period 5 &amp; 6:</b> Research Paper – “Entering the Conversation”</p> <p><b>Essential Questions:</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does our society use theater to address issues of our time?</li> <li>• Can you be a good actor without making yourself vulnerable?</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Improvisation, collaboration, performance skills.</p> <p><b>Key Standards:</b> 9-10W4, 9-10R5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we use research to explore real-world questions?</li> <li>• What makes a strong thesis and credible evidence?</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Developing research questions, finding and evaluating sources, drafting and revising an argument, proper citation.</p> <p><b>Key Standards:</b> 9-10W1, 9-10W4-W9, 9-10L3-L6</p>
<p><b>Marking Period 3:</b> Podcast Project – “My Voice Matters”</p> <p><b>Essential Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can I use my pen, my mind, and my voice to improve society?</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills:</b> Researching, questioning, interviewing, writing and producing a podcast episode.</p> <p><b>Key Standards:</b> 9-10SL1-SL5, 9-10W2-W9, 9-10R1-R2</p>	<p><b>Helpful Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYS Next Generation ELA Standards (Grades 9–10):  <a href="https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/nys-next-generation-ela-standards.pdf">https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/nys-next-generation-ela-standards.pdf</a></li> </ul>