**Course Overview:**

Students will be introduced to rhetorical analysis, specifically focusing on the subject, occasion, audience, purpose and speaker of a text. Students will develop and refine their critical thinking and close reading skills through the study of a variety of literary genre: poetry, nonfiction essays, the short story, drama, and the novel. Writing assignments will include not only the expository and narrative essay, but also book reviews and some creative writing exercises involving poetry, fiction, and dramatic writing. This course is designed for 9th grade students who are independent readers.

**Essential Understandings**

* Reading a wide variety of literature and literacy nonfiction offers insights into the human condition and serves as models for students’ own thinking and writing.
* Writing is a means of asserting and defending claims, displaying knowledge, and conveying experiences and feelings

**Brunswick Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on Maine Learning Results )

**P.S. ELA-1 Language: Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.**

1. Notice and correct grammatical and mechanical errors in writing.
2. Demonstrate command of correct sentence structure and variety.
3. Apply standard usage to formal speaking and writing.

**P.S ELA-2 Reading Analysis: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.**

1. Evaluate the relevant themes and synthesize how they are present in the novel in oral and written responses.
2. Interpret the implications of setting and circumstance.
3. Analyze the role of characters in the plot in oral and written responses.
4. Analyze important quotations from the text in oral and written responses.
5. Annotate the text.

**P.S ELA-3 Reading Craft and Structure: Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of a text.**

1. Understand SOAPSTone: Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone.
2. Analyze the plot and/or design of the text, following shifts in time and place.

**P.S ELA-4 Writing Analysis: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.**

1. Select and limit a debatable thesis.
2. Research evidence using credible sources.
3. Select an appropriate organizational plan.
4. Acknowledge alternate sides of a position.
5. Apply the standards of English conventions.
6. Apply persuasive strategies.
7. Create a Works Cited for evidence used.

**P.S ELA-5 Writing Craft: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.**

1. Create an effective introduction.
2. Use showing details v. telling details.
3. Maintain a focus on the main idea throughout the body paragraphs.
4. Write an effective conclusion.

**P.S. ELA-7 Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in well-reasoned exchange of ideas**

1. Attentively listen to the words of a speaker.
2. Summarize what someone has said.
3. Defend, refute, or challenge the ideas of others.
4. Use evidence to support a position.
5. Organize ideas clearly and logically.
6. Use annotations of the text to contribute to class discussion.

**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

* In-class discussion
* Short poetic recitation
* Dramatic reading
* Quizzes and tests
* Timed in-class writing
* Extended take-home writing
* Annotate text
* Language practice and word games
* Close reading activities
* Vocabulary and grammar exercises
* Narrative, informative/explanatory, and argumentative essay writing

**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

Novels**:**

* *To Kill a Mockingbird* Harper Lee
* *Lord of the Flies* William Golding
* *And Then There Were None* Agatha Christie Plays
* *Romeo and Juliet* Shakespeare

Short Stories:

* “ The Story Teller” Saki
* “ In Another Country” Hemingway
* “ Harrison Bergeron” Vonnegut
* “The Egg” Anderson
* “ Mask of Red Death” Poe
* “ Gryphon”, Charles Baxter
* “ Day of the Butterfly” Alice Munroe
* “The Doll’s House” Katherine Mansfield
* “The Bet” Chekov
* “ The Monkey’s Paw” WW Jacobs

Essays:

* Various selections

Poetry

* *The Odyssey* Homer
* Shakespearean Sonnets
* Various examples of seasonal poetry
* Various examples of war poetry