



Shawnee Mission South ELA Department



ELA 1 vs. ELA 1 Honors

Welcome to Shawnee Mission South! You now begin your personal and academic journey toward high school graduation and college/career readiness. We encourage you to maximize your experience by engaging actively and authentically in South's many [academics](#), [arts](#), [athletics](#), and [activities](#).

One of your first big high school decisions is whether to take on-level or honors courses. Use these questions as guides when considering whether to enroll in the ELA Honors/Advanced Placement pathway--

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| * Do I enjoy participating in English class? | * Am I willing to devote 30-45 minutes per night? |
| * Do I invest time and focus in reading? | * Do I enjoy writing, including analysis and argumentative essays? |
| * Do I manage time and plan projects well? | * Did I get a strong A in regular English or an A or B in Advanced English? |
| * Am I eager to learn new vocab and skills? | * Have I factored in athletics and activities? |
| * Am I comfortable with public speaking? | * Have I factored in other honors classes/scheduling? |
| * Do I want to enroll in AP English or in the AP Capstone program during my junior and senior years? | |

ENGLISH 9 / ELA 1

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summer Reading: | No |
| Writing: | Ongoing informal writings One formal writing per quarter |
| Presenting: | One individual and/or group presentation per semester |
| Homework: | Several nights per week, including assigned reading, skill work, and test prep |
| Key Readings: | <i>Anthem, Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, Animal Farm, The Odyssey, and Romeo and Juliet</i> |
| Finals: | 15% of semester grade |

ENGLISH 9 HONORS / ELA 1 HONORS

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|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summer Reading: | No |
| Writing: | Ongoing informal writings More than one formal writing per quarter Timed, in-class essays for AP practice |
| Presentations: | More than one individual and/or group presentation per semester |
| Homework: | Most nights per week, including assigned reading, skill work, test prep, and long-term projects |
| Key Readings: | <i>Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, Animal Farm, The Odyssey, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Romeo and Juliet</i> Quarterly independent readings |
| Finals: | 20% of semester grade |

RESOURCES

[KSDE ELA Parent Guide](#)
[SMSD Strategic Plan](#)
[SMSD Program of Studies](#)
[SMSD Curriculum Map Snapshots](#)
[AP Language and Composition \(JR\)](#)
[AP Literature and Composition \(SR\)](#)
[AP Capstone Program \(JR & SR\)](#)

ELECTIVES

Video Production [1](#) and [2](#) / [KSMS Journalism](#) / [Newspaper](#) / Yearbook
[Writers Workshop](#) / [Lit Mag](#) / [Poetry Debate](#) / [Competitive Speech&Drama Speech](#) / [Mock Trial](#)

CONTACT

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