

Material Covered:

The course is comprised of the following three main themes:

1. Mechanics
 - Spelling Review
 - Punctuation Review
 - Sentence Skills Review
 - Paragraph Development & Structure
2. Inquiry
 - Identity
 - Family
 - Risk
3. Novel Study – The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Textbook:

The course uses the following resources:

Writers Express

ISBN 0 – 17 – 607458 – 9

iWonder8 – An Inquiry-Based Anthology

ISBN-10: 1-25-964922-9

Course Design:

This course is designed to support British Columbia’s New Curriculum, and anchors into strong literacy foundations, with the broad themes of core competencies woven throughout. Students will be encouraged to become educated citizens, by recognizing the social, cultural and historical lens through which texts are interpreted. Through exposure to a broad variety of text, and personalized response style, students will be encouraged to draw connections to themselves as well as the greater world around them. Many of the units within the course do not have unit tests, and the student is marked solely on the worksheet, or a thematic project. These projects are intended to be a demonstration of the student's knowledge, as well as an opportunity to personalize learning, and make further connections between curriculum and self.

Notebook:

Your notebook should be neatly organized, as this will help you study for tests. Label the unit and topic headings clearly at the top of the page. Answer questions fully, so that the information makes sense and can be used later for studying. Show what page number in the textbook the information comes from, so you can look it up again easily.

Grading:

The Mechanics portion of this course works on a mastery system. You must pass the Mechanics Unit Test to the 80% level before you can go on.

In addition, there are cumulative projects at the end of major units and themes. Those tests or projects can only be submitted once, so be sure to do your best work on them. Your class mark for the course is based 60% on your worksheet material and creative responses and 40% on the cumulative tests and projects.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is for the student to review and practice their spelling skills, and create strategies for developing vocabulary throughout the duration of English 8.

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will review and practice:

- Making a spelling dictionary
- Applying basic spelling rules
- Strategies for remembering difficult spellings
- How to proofread your work for spelling errors

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the textbook *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 1 Worksheet.
- In the *Writer's Express*, read pages 270 – 273, paying particular attention to **Making a Spelling Dictionary**. It contains some great tips on how to become a better speller.
- As you continue to complete your work in English 8, you should refer back to your Spelling Dictionary, entering new words or words that you have trouble spelling as you move through material.
- Do the work in the worksheet.
- Hand in your worksheet so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.

- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the unit test. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to review and practice your skills with punctuation.

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will review and practice:

- Using end punctuation like periods, exclamation points, and question marks
- Using commas, semi-colons, and colons
- Using hyphens, and dashes
- Using quotation marks and apostrophes

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the textbook *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 2 Worksheet.
- In the *Writer's Express* read pages 343 – 351 items #1 – 56 on punctuation.
- Do the work in the worksheet.
- Hand in your worksheet so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.

- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the unit test. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to review and practice your skills with sentences.

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will review and practice working with:

- Identifying the basic parts of a sentence.
- Sentence fragments, run-ons, and rambling sentences.
- Subject/verb agreement and pronoun/antecedent agreement.
- Double subjects and double negatives.
- Combining two or more shorter sentences into one longer sentence.

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the textbook *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 3 Worksheet.
- In the *Writer's Express* read pages 85 – 89 on Writing Basics, then do the practice work in Part A of the worksheet.
- In the *Writer's Express* read pages 90 – 93 on Combining Sentences, then do the practice work in Part B of the worksheet.
- Hand in your worksheet so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.
- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the unit test. Remember, you must get 80% to pass, so studying hard is essential to do well.
- Go over your work from Units 1-3. When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Mechanics – Cumulative Test #1. Remember, you can only write this test once, so studying hard is essential to do well.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to further develop your ability to write sentences from Unit 3, and weave these sentences into cohesive paragraphs.

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will review and practice:

- Identifying the form, purpose, and structure of different paragraph types.
- Comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences between different paragraph types.
- Familiarize yourself with:
 - Descriptive Paragraphs
 - Narrative Paragraphs
 - Persuasive Paragraphs
 - Expository Paragraphs

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the textbook *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 4 Worksheet, and do the work there.
- Hand in your worksheet so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to increase your skills at planning and developing focused paragraphs, which tell a full and complete story.

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will review and practice:

- Identifying the form, purpose, and structure of a paragraph.
- Using a scaffold or a plan to assist in organizing your ideas.
- The ability to remain focused on your subject or topic, and link all sentences back to your main idea.

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit refers back the textbook *Writer's Express*, and the information gathered in Unit 4.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 5 Worksheet, and do the work there.
- Hand in your worksheet so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.
- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Unit 5 Project. Remember to follow all of the steps for adding transitional language and proofreading carefully before submitting your work!

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore the question, *What makes me, me?*

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will:

- Be exposed to a variety of text, including:
 - Poetry
 - Graphic story
 - Visual representation
 - Ad campaigns
- Develop strategies for reading and comprehending different text forms
- Recognize how different forms of text reflect different purposes, audiences and messages
- Respond in personal, creative and critical ways

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the anthology *iWonder8*, and makes reference to the text *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 6 Worksheet, and do the work there.
- Hand in your worksheet and any creative projects so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.

- This unit will be assessed based on the work completed in your Unit 6 Worksheet, as well as any separately submitted paragraphs or creative projects. Remember to edit your work carefully, and submit high quality material for assessment.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore the question, *What is a family?*

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will:

- Be exposed to a variety of text, including:
 - Memoir
 - Short story
 - Graphic poetry
- Develop strategies for reading and comprehending different text forms
- Recognize how different forms of text reflect different purposes, audiences and messages
- Respond in personal, creative and critical ways

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the anthology *iWonder8*, and makes reference to the text *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 7 Worksheet, and do the work there.
- Hand in your worksheet and any creative projects so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.

- This unit will be assessed based on the work completed in your Unit 7 Worksheet, as well as any separately submitted paragraphs or creative projects. Remember to edit your work carefully, and submit high quality material for assessment.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to explore the question, *Why do we take risks?*

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will:

- Be exposed to a variety of text, including:
 - Articles
 - Short Story
 - Timeline
- Develop strategies for reading and comprehending different text forms
- Recognize how different forms of text reflect different purposes, audiences and messages
- Respond in personal, creative and critical ways

What to Do in this Unit:

- This unit uses the anthology *iWonder8*, and makes reference to the text *Writer's Express*.
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 8 Worksheet, and do the work there.
- Hand in your worksheet and any creative projects so your teacher may see what you have done, and give you feedback on your work.

- This unit will be assessed based on the work completed in your Unit 8 Worksheet, as well as any separately submitted paragraphs or creative projects. Remember to edit your work carefully, and submit high quality material for assessment.

Goal:

The goal of this unit is to increase your skills with reading, analysing and understanding a novel, and provide opportunities to practice previously established response styles.

Objectives:

While completing this unit you will review and practice:

- Reading a work of fiction.
- Analyzing what you have read.
- Gaining a better understanding of what you have read, and providing evidence of understanding through personalized response styles

What to Do in this Unit:

- The novel for this unit is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- Ask your teacher for the Unit 9 Worksheet.
- After you have looked over your work, submit your Unit 9 Worksheet to your teacher for marking.

- When you are ready, ask your teacher for the Unit 9 Project – Multi-Paragraph Response, and do the work there. Remember, you can only submit this project once, so do your best on it.

- **Congratulations, you have finished English 08!**