

High School English Curriculum Guide

PURPOSE:

- The attached curriculum guide for OUSD English 1-4 is a developmental and integrated approach for teaching English at the high school level.
- This is a guide for teachers to use in reviewing their existing course content to ensure their courses meet the minimum requirements for accountability for high school English: the California State standards and the A requirement for UC and CSU.
- This guide is an accountability measure to ensure that all students receive instruction in the essential domains of English/language arts.
- This guide may also serve principals as a framework for observation of course content within each classroom.

RATIONALE:

Since the California State Content standards combine the high school English standards into two grade levels, English 9/10 and 11/12, teachers saw the need to sequence the standards by individual grade level in order to develop a comprehensive program built on skill and content knowledge mastery. Furthermore, many teachers saw the need for a curriculum guide rooted in an integrated approach to the teaching of reading, writing and presentation forms and structures.

To meet the UC and CSU A requirement for high school English students must take **four units** (equivalent to four yearlong courses or eight semesters) of college preparatory composition and literature. Both reading and writing components must be included in the courses.

- **Reading.** Acceptable courses must require extensive reading of a variety of literary genres, including classical and/or contemporary works. Reading assignments must include full-length works. Excerpts from anthologies, articles, etc. can be supplemental but cannot constitute the main component of reading assignments.
- **Writing.** Courses must also require substantial, recurrent practice in writing extensive, structured papers. Students must demonstrate understanding of rhetorical, grammatical, and syntactical patterns, forms, and structures through responding to texts of varying lengths in unassisted writing assignments.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND GUIDES:

Sequence Matrix for English 1-4
Rubrics for various writing types
Literary Terms and Concepts for each level
Academic Vocabulary List
Common Suffixes and prefixes and forming parts of speech