

English 1 Pre-AP Contract

The purpose of Pre-AP courses is to prepare students for the future AP courses and AP exams that give students the opportunity to receive college credit. Typically, successful PreAP students are highly self-motivated proficient readers who have a strong desire to engage in advanced skills of concise scholastic writing and close analytical reading of mature imaginative works of recognized literary merit. PreAP courses are different from the regular high school courses in that they are taught at a pace and rigor consistent with skills advanced by two years—English 1 PreAP will be taught as an 11th grade English course. Class discussions are significant and require active participation on a daily basis. Other characteristics of a PreAP English course includes content immersion, a fast pace, student learning independence, collaborative projects, and nightly homework. Assignments and papers will be graded on a standard that demands advanced academic rigor as recommended by the College Board.

Students should NOT choose to take this course solely for the GPA multiplier—if students are not prepared for the rigor and pace of the course, the multiplier will not make up for the deficit in their grade.

Honor Code: This class will be conducted under the Westlake High School Honor Code. Students are expected to uphold moral and academic integrity by being honest and respectful to themselves as well as the faculty, staff, administration, and fellow students at all times. Students will not cheat, nor will they tolerate those who do cheat. All students are expected to do their own work on projects and exams, inside and outside of class. Copying is NOT collaborating. Plagiarism is an honor code violation and grounds for failure of this course. *See below for specifics on plagiarism.*

Plagiarism Defined and Consequences Explained

What is Plagiarism? Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and/or lying about it afterward. **But can words and ideas really be stolen?** According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- passing off ideas found in study guides (Sparknotes, Shmoop), online information (Google, Brainy Quotes, Wikipedia), or subscription services (Bookrags, Enotes) **as your own**
- turning in someone else's work as your own - including that of a paid tutor, parent, sibling, friend, or online service
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious issue, especially in an academic environment; It is equivalent to stealing and will not be tolerated. Teachers must be able to rely on the integrity of a student's work in order to maintain a climate for successful learning. Plagiarism reflects on character; therefore, you should diligently avoid inadvertent plagiarism. The penalties for plagiarism include **loss of all credit for the assignment with no opportunity to rewrite**. This may significantly lower your final grade. For clarification, you may refer to the information available in the Honor Code.

If you have any questions about plagiarism now or at any time during the course of this school year, especially during your work on any assignment, please see me for help.

Student, Parent, Teacher Responsibilities:

Student	I agree to organize my time and effort to complete the PreAP course successfully. I will take the initiative to notify my teacher immediately if I am struggling or have fallen behind in class readings or assignments. I understand that I have chosen to enroll in a PreAP English program and must commit to the rigors and responsibilities of that decision. I also acknowledge that I have received extensive instruction on plagiarism and I understand exactly what constitutes plagiarism. Furthermore, I am aware of the serious nature of plagiarism, that it will result in a grade of zero, and I will not intentionally use or submit someone else's work without acknowledgment. Lastly, I will not misrepresent someone else's work or ideas as my own.
Parent	I agree to be familiar with the PreAP course requirements and to help my student organize study time in support of class assignments and extra-curriculars. I will encourage my student to self-advocate in regards to any concerns with assignments by contacting their teacher in a timely manner. I understand that my child has chosen to enroll in a PreAP English program and must commit to the rigors and responsibilities of that decision.
Teacher	I agree to teach the course requirements of English 1 PreAP at an advanced level and pace as recommended by the College Board in order to prepare students for success in future AP courses. Students and parents will be kept apprised of student progress through the online gradebook and should any concerns or issues arise parents will be contacted through email.

By signing below, parties are agreeing to the responsibilities and understandings outlined above.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Teacher Signature _____ Date: _____