

Honors vs College Prep (CP) for English

Based on performance on the English Placement Exam, incoming freshmen are eligible to place into the following classes:

English I College Prep

English I CP explores world literature through reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. The general components of the class are structured as follows:

- **Reading:** Grade-level novels from different time periods and locations are assigned varying in lexile level and genre. Students will also learn the foundations of annotating.
- **Writing:** The focus freshman year is on writing a cohesive, strong, succinct argument that can be supported by evidence. Writing is guided and direct, and each class uses creative writing, often with modeling, to further connect with content. Students write ~3 papers and several smaller pieces over the course of a trimester with limited, but guided, time in class to build specific pieces. This class takes a scaffolded approach to writing.
- **Grammar:** Parts of speech, parts of a sentence, verbals, clauses, punctuation, and usage are all foundational pieces of freshman year grammar. Studies include sentence diagramming, IXL exercises, and in-class practice. Students in a CP course should expect a more moderately-paced approach to grammar with time to relearn and practice concepts that are new.
- **Vocabulary:** Vocabulary taken from the current literature builds the basis of word studies in English I. Students should expect to work with unfamiliar words both in and out of context. The CP course provides more guidance in the study of words.
- **Homework:** Students should expect nightly reading (~20 pages). Larger, take-home projects and papers coincide and should be addressed daily at home.

English I Honors

English I Honors explores world literature through reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. The general components of the class are structured as follows:

- **Reading:** Novels from different time periods and locations are assigned varying in lexile level and genre. Students will also learn the foundations of annotating. Students in the honors course should be strong readers, both in speed and comprehension.
- **Writing:** The focus freshman year is on writing a cohesive, strong, succinct argument that can be supported by evidence. Writing should be error-free, and each class uses creative writing to further connect with content. Students write ~4 papers and several smaller pieces over the course of a trimester.
- **Grammar:** Parts of speech, parts of a sentence, verbals, clauses, punctuation, and usage are all foundational pieces of freshman year grammar. Studies include sentence diagramming, IXL exercises, and in-class practice. Students in an Honors course should expect a faster-paced/review-style approach to grammar.
- **Vocabulary:** Vocabulary taken from the current literature builds the basis of word studies in English I. Students should expect to work with unfamiliar words both in and out of context. Students in the honors course should seek their own definitions while reading.

- Homework: Students should expect nightly reading (~35 pages). Larger, take-home projects and papers coincide and should be addressed daily at home.

What is similar?

- The scope and sequence is the same at the freshman level.
- The manner of homework is generally the same: read and come prepared for a reading quiz. Honors will read more, and Honors will read more challenging material.
- At the freshman level, the thematic units, essential questions, and reserved texts are the same.