**Mrs. Mishra’s Tips for Success – ELA 10 B**

Here are some things you should know about English 10B to help you be successful:

1) **Do your homework and assignments ON TIME.** All of the homework assignments and other projects are designed to help you learn and practice specific concepts, terms, and ideas. They are not just "make-work," I have created them and assigned them to you at this particular time so that you can learn and practice these things in the right order. In addition, if you get things in on time then you will get more timely feedback, and more opportunities to fix mistakes and improve your writing and other skills, AND get things re-graded to show that improvement. Doing assignments late and at the last minute means you won't have these opportunities - it's as simple as that. Try your very best to stay on top of things - it is much easier to keep up than it is to catch up!

2) **Take the Daily and Weekly homework seriously.** Daily Reading Logs and Free Rice (vocabulary and grammar practice) are ongoing homework assignments which are meant to help instil positive habits and provide you with skills that will be useful beyond the classroom. The benefits of regular reading are clearly documented, and having a larger vocabulary and using grammar correctly will help you in the job market, in any post-secondary training or education you decide to take on, and generally will allow you to make a good impression with people you interact with in the world. Plus, these assignments are essentially "gimme marks" that should help raise your marks in English. If you skip them, then they'll bring your marks down instead - what a waste!

3**) Ask for help when you need it!** Needing help is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of self-awareness, which is a really important thing to develop. I cannot read your mind, so I won't know what you need help with unless you let me know. This extends to writing assignments and other projects - if you want feedback on your work or to check to see if you're on the right track, then PLEASE come see me (outside of class time is probably best since we probably won't have time during class) and I will be happy to give you some feedback even before you hand it in.

4) **Don't give up!** I find that the main thing that separates students who do well in high school, from those who do poorly, is NOT "being smart" - it's perseverance (sticking to it, even when it's difficult). Learning new things can be difficult, but you can do it - sometimes it takes several tries!

5) **Work on becoming an independent learner and taking responsibility for your own success**. High school means increased responsibility for your own learning. Your teachers and parents and other adults in your life are here to support you, but ultimately it is YOU who must decide if you want to be successful.

6) **Proofread, Proofread, Proofread!** I can't even explain how many marks are lost in my English classes because students didn't read over their work carefully before handing it in. Typos, missing or inserted words, awkward sentence structures, sentences that simply don't make sense... it's really hard to see past these to your great ideas! So here's what you do: Read it slowly to yourself. Read it out loud to yourself. Read it out loud to a friend. Ask your parents to read it over for you. Ask a friend or classmate to read it over for you. Don't hand it in until you have done **at least 3 of these** steps. Sometimes we will even have time in class for some peer editing - so make sure you have a draft ready for your classmate to look over on those days!

Another tip I can offer is to stay up to date - you should check the class blog and our course calendar regularly, and I strongly suggest that you sign up for Remind, to get the latest reminders on the go!

Best of Luck this Year!

Mrs. Mishra