



English 8: Mostly Harmless

English 8 explores many aspects of the human condition, and *MyPerspectives* has put together a series of units that look at individual facets of the human experience through a variety of lenses. We will use these units to focus our attention, and they will also serve as jumping off points for more sustained exploration. You will also choose individual novels to read alongside our textbook that explore similar themes in greater detail. The pieces we read in the *MyPerspectives* will afford us the opportunity to practice our short formal responses, and the novels you read will allow us to understand and craft longer, more sustained arguments. These analytical responses will rely on evidence from the text in order to further the arguments that you create. Because *this* is the heart of English, the reason we require four years of practice: you need to read and interpret, yes, but, most importantly, you need to respond. And because responding requires accurate language and flawless grammar, we will work to strengthen your grammar skills and hone your word choice.

Texts:

MyPerspectives Grade 8

Novels of Choice, including, but not limited to:

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: Douglas Adams

The Golden Compass: Philip Pullman

Instructional Goals

This course addresses each of the Montana state standards, but I will emphasize proper paragraph construction in service of an overarching argument. We will use textual evidence to prove claims, and we will focus on the exploration of that evidence and how it relates to student claims.

Goals:

At the end of this course, you will

- Be able to construct a well-reasoned argument
- Understand proper sentence structure
- Be able to create solid paragraphs that center around specific claims
- Apply your knowledge of CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) across all content areas

Schedule of Major Projects

First Semester:

MyPerspectives: Units 1-3

2-3 page paper on NOC (Novel of Choice)

Second Semester:

MyPerspectives: Units 4-5

2-3 page paper on NOC (Novel of Choice)

General Classroom Rules:

Keeping it Simple, Classroom rules are three:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

and...

- **Cell Phones: Are not allowed in class unless permission is given by the teacher.**

Grading Policies:

25% Bellringer

15% Participation, Class Notes and Journals

20% Vocab and Grammar

20% Papers

20% Textbook Responses

Late Work:

Points will be deducted from a student's grade if work is handed in late. For every week an assignment/project/power focus is late, points will be taken off. Below is the rule for late assignments.

1 day late-10% reduction

2 days late-20% reduction

3 days late-30% reduction

4 days late-40% reduction

5+ days late-50% reduction

Work can be turned in for fifty percent credit all the way through the end of the quarter, but no work from a previous quarter may be turned in for credit.

*For emergency purposes (Dr. notes/school events/etc) considerations for extending deadlines may be made.