

Federal Way High School
Course Syllabus – AVID Class
2007-2008

Teacher Name: Mrs. Patci Serrano
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Email address: pserrano@fwps.org
Office Hours: Half hour before school starts and ends
Parent Contact: Please email or phone for a meeting

Course Description:

AVID is an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, notetaking, and research.

Parent/Teacher Contact: Please feel free to call or email me with any concerns or compliments :) you have. The best way to contact me is through email – I usually respond within 24 hours. The best times to call are before or after school or during my 2nd period plan. If you would rather meet in person, please call or e-mail and give possible options. If you would just like to drop in to see what happens in the class, feel free; however, first stop at the office and get a visitor's pass.

Washington State EALRs:

AVID Standards:

- 1.0 Personal and Academic Goals
- 5.0 Use "The Writing Process" to write

Reading and Writing Skills:

- R 1.2 Interpret Vocabulary critical to the text
- R 2.1 Main Idea and supporting details; Summarize with evidence from text
- R 2.2 Compare/Contrast or make connections between or among texts
- W 3. Write a clear, effective, error-free essays.

Math Skills:

3.1 Analyze information from a variety of sources. 4.1 Gather information—read, listen, and observe to access and extract mathematical information. 2.3 Construct solutions by organizing the necessary information and using appropriate mathematical tools.

Material Used: Various materials that include handouts and outside resources.

Supplemental Reading: Secondary Source: Ethics in American Life. This source will be used to enhance the student's understanding of the importance of ethical behavior in the business world as in everyday day life.

Movies: A list of district-approved educational movies related to the class will be sent to parents along with an Audio Visual Form for parents/guardian to sign.

Class Expectations: It is about mutual **Respect** for both teacher and student as well as other students and property whether school, self or others.

Grading Scale: A grade of 70% is required for graduation requirements.

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	B- = 80-83	C = 74-76	D+ = 67-69
A- = 90-92	B = 84-86	C+ = 77-79	C- = 70-73	D = 62-66
F = 0-61				

Grading Scale:

- **50%** of overall grade: Projects, Tests, Quizzes
- **50%** of overall grade: Daily Assignments/Homework and leadership/participation (field trips, guest speakers, community service, etc.)

Attendance: See attached information sheets.

Required Materials: Students must have an organized binder that includes materials that assist in keeping organized. Students will be given a handout with specific supplies needed.

Homework: Homework is due at the start of class. If it is not turned in at the start of class it will be considered late.

Late Work: Daily or homework assignments turned in late during a 6-week grading period are marked down 50%. After the six-week cut off date, late assignments will not be accepted. There will be some assignments that will NOT be accepted late! Projects may be turned in only 1 day late for ½ credit.

Make-Up Work Policy for excused absence: Students who have an excused absence(s) have as many days to turn in their work missed, or to take a test, as they were gone. For example, if you were absent 2 days they you have 2 days in which to turn in your assignment or take the test. If you miss the deadline, the make up work will be considered late.

Plagiarism/Cheating/Copying: When you use someone else's work and present it as your own a zero will be given for that assignment or test. If you allow someone to copy your work you will also receive a zero.

Critical Dates for Mrs. Serrano's class:

1st six-weeks ends	Friday October 19
Last day to turn in late work	Monday October 15
2nd six-weeks ends	Friday December 7
Last day to turn in late work	Monday December 3
1st semester ends	Friday January 25
Last day to turn in late work	Tuesday January 22
4th six-weeks ends	Friday March 14
Last day to turn in late work	Monday March 10
5th six-weeks ends	Friday May 2
Last day to turn in late work	Monday April 28
2nd semester ends	Friday June 13
Last day to turn in late work	Monday June 9

What students need to do to be successful in class:

1. **Be here on time everyday** ready to learn with your materials (book, paper, pen/pencil, homework, etc.). If you're absent make up your work
2. **Do your work and turn it in on time.** Even if you aren't totally finished with an assignment, it is usually better to turn in what you have than nothing. Anything is better than a Zero.
3. **Participate in class.** Learning is not a spectator sport...you must engage your brain and take part in activities and discussions.
4. **Take Notes.** Review your notes that night at home so you can remember the information.
5. **Study** before tests – don't just expect miracles.
6. **Manage your time wisely.** In other words – don't procrastinate and wait until the last minute to throw something together for a project.
7. **Pay Attention.** Don't let others distract you from your learning and success - don't distract others.
8. **Ask for help** if you don't understand something. If you need more help come in before or after school or go to Eagle Vision tutoring.

What parents/guardians can do to help their student be successful in class:

1. **Ask** them to summarize what we are learning in class. Ask them if they understand the material or if they need more help. Help is available before/after school with teachers or at Eagle Vision with tutors.
2. **Check grades online.** Grades may be accessed on-line by going to <http://grades.fwps.org>. Click on grades on-line. You will need your student's ID number and password.
3. **Call or email the teacher** if you see that your student is struggling.
4. **Check that your student is coming to school and attending class.**
5. **Provide a regular schedule** to make sure that your student is getting enough sleep at night and eating breakfast before school.
6. Make sure that **extra curricular activities** (sports, clubs, church, job, etc.) **is balanced** with enough time to do homework and study.
7. **Provide a study space** that is quiet and away from distractions.

What the teacher will do to help students be successful:

My goal for the student is to assist in fully embracing the "Advancement Via Individual Determination" (AVID) philosophy by seeing the relevance of their rigorous college preparatory courses and acceptance in to colleges/universities upon graduation. I will show you Respect through my actions and words. I will be Available before and after school for extra help. I will make this a thought-provoking and informative class. I will be prepared everyday with activities, quizzes, tests, or projects. I have included in this syllabus other teaching strategies I will do to help students be successful—please read thoroughly.

Electronic Use Policy: All telecommunication/electronic devices may not be in visible sight or operated during school hours. (6:00 am – 4:00 pm). See FWHS website for more information regarding consequences.

AVID Syllabus
School Year 2007-2008
Student/Parent/Guardian Confirmation Form

Student and Parent/Guardian have read and understand the syllabus and other attached information. Please sign and fill in the following information. Any questions, please call me at 253.945.5494 or e-mail: pserrano@fwps.org.

Student Signature

Date

Print Your Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Print Your Name

E-mail Address

Phone Number

Other Contact Information