

Shapiro English Parent Night Handout

Below is a list of common questions and concerns parents might/could/should have about this class:

Q: What's the best way to contact you with questions?

A: My email: Shapiro@earlycollegealliance.info

Q: How can I help my student in your class?

A: Make sure students have reliable internet access for research and a quiet place to write. Be flexible about letting students stay late or come early to meet with me if they have questions. OR to allow students to use the computers on campus if you don't have reliable internet access or a printer etc. at home. Quiz students on their vocab Help students plan their time – make a daily calendar or put reminders on the fridge, etc. Finally, encourage your student to stick with it. Celebrate any small victories bearing in mind the first semester of ECA is often extremely difficult.

Q: My student earned a C- on their first essay, but they've never earned a low grade before. Should I be worried?

A: Yes and no - the standards at ECA are often much higher compared to students' district high schools. Often times a students' essay grade is a reflection of the quality of students' notes and focus in class. Other times, it can be a reflection of poor time management skills and procrastination. **But also, writing a college-level academic essay can be a new and complicated task for many students. If your student earns a low grade, make sure they read the feedback on their essay and ask questions in office hours** – especially if they can't understand my handwriting...

Q: Should I help my student with their essay?

A: Welllllllllllllllll. The best thing to do is to help your student plan their essay. When will they write it? Help students break the tasks into distinct chunks and make sure they have all the material, time and space they need.

Q: My child said there's no homework for your class tonight, is that true?

A: Certainly not! Every night students should be working on their essays. See the schedule below that will take us all the way through Thanksgiving:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Begin writing body paragraphs	Finish the rough draft of the essay	Get feedback from classmates / Mr. Shapiro / parents (ehh)	Begin reading the new article	Finish reading the article and begin re-reading to find evidence	Finish finding evidence and begin outlining	Complete the reading guide / outline

Q: What advice does a former student have?

A: Be prepared to be called on at random, even when your hand isn't up. Have all materials out, including homework, pen or pencil, paper, readings, etc. Highlight, talk to the text, and use sticky notes. You might not feel like doing it now but you'll appreciate it in the long run. Ask him to proofread or edit essays. If a week at a glance is provided utilize it and if you have time try to get some of the homework done early if possible. Type everything and do not wait to print at the last minute. If you're absent send him an email to follow up on what was missed and call a friend to get your homework. Just because you're absent does not mean you have a "get out of homework free card". Make an outline for your essays, it's no fun writing without a plan. -SA

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.