

English 10

To be successful in English 10, you should:

**Read at in a quiet place where you can concentrate.**

While you can dash off some vocabulary at lunch, etc., you need to make sure you are *reading* in a quiet place where you can concentrate. Complete all assigned reading. You will know reading schedules ahead of time so you can read ahead if needed—if you are annotating (see below), you will be able quickly to refresh a done-in-advance reading before the class for which the reading is assigned.

**Annotate your books.**

Brookewood has opted to let you keep your books in part to allow you to learn the important skill of annotating. At different moments in the class, we will talk about how to annotate, but both beginning to trust your sense of what is important in what you read and marking what we talk about in class will make you a more active reader and participant in the discourse. Please see the separate handout about annotation.

**Take notes in your notebook every day in class.**

You should have notes, dated, for each class meeting (even though you are also annotating). The notes give structure to the ideas discussed; the annotations anchor the ideas in the books themselves. Some students like to tell me that annotation is enough; it is not.

**Consider revision as part of the writing process.**

will need at least two drafts of every formal paper you write in high school. Accept the maxim: “Writing is rewriting” (Hemingway).

**See that your teacher is a resource; meet with her.**

Everyone should meet with me to discuss a draft, to go over questions or concerns that come up, and to check in after an absence (after checking the website and getting the notes from a friend).

**Turn in all work; if you need an extension, ask for one at least 36 hours in advance.**

A zero will wreck your average. For formal papers, I deduct one letter grade for each day late, bottoming out at 50%. If you see doom on the horizon, ask for help early. The teacher can be reasonable if you advocate appropriately for yourself. *Nolite timere*: If you have dug yourself into a hole, be forthright with me and know that some degree of redemption is almost always possible.