English 9
To be successful in English 9, you should:

Read at home.
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. We will talk about good outside sources to use when you don't understand something. If you run out of time once in a while, commercial summaries can help—overall, we are here to develop a practice of careful reading, though, so you'll need to make sure you budget the time to keep up.

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.

Keep notes in class everyday.
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.

Write papers in multiple drafts.
You will need at least two drafts of every formal paper you write in English 9. 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/blog 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 devastate your average. For formal papers, I deduct one letter grade for each day late, but 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.