Dear Students, (Apex High School)

Welcome to my class! I hope that you find the class to be one that improves your written and verbal communication skills, helps you to explore new ideas, and encourages you to grow as a person and as a life-long learner. I also hope that this class improves your ability to positively contribute to a team, improves your public speaking ability and improves your overall confidence. You will be required to write formally and informally, to contribute to class discussions, to work in groups, to use technology, to create outlines and to deliver formal and informal presentations. As always, I look forward to teaching you as well as learning from you this year and feel that with common goals and respect, we can have a successful class.

 Sincerely,

 Scott Ferguson

 jferguson@wcpss.net

 ApexFerg.weebly.com

**Expectations**:

**Class Rules & Expectations**:

1. ***Be Respectful***: Respect others by sincerely listening to them, discussing issues respectfully, and including others in your conversations. Also understand when it is respectful to speak and when it is respectful to listen.

2. ***Be Punctual***: Be seated in your desk when the tardy bell rings and have all of your materials present and

 ready.

3. ***Be Appropriate***: This includes your language, your content, and your movement. It also includes a

 general self-awareness that you are in a community.

4. ***Be Aware***: Notice things around you and make sure that you are aware of other people’s needs,

 situational needs, and classroom needs. Be aware of how you can make our class better.

5. ***Be Responsible***: It is the responsibility of the student to initiate make-up work at an appropriate time

 upon return. Students should check the weebly site for missing assignments (ApexFerg.weebly.com).

6. ***Be Engaged***: Students are expected to actively read and participate in thoughtful book discussions and

 movie discussions.

7. ***Be Present***: I want you to be present with us in body, mind, and spirit. Unless otherwise stated, all

 electronic communication devices should be off your desk and on the “off” setting. Visits to the

 restroom should be made before and after class. You will have 3 bathroom passes per quarter. You

 should not be working on any assignments from other classes during our time together. **Unexcused**

 absences will result in point deductions for work completed or due during the missed time.

8. ***Be Helpful***. If someone needs help or if something needs to be done, help out. How can you contribute

 to helping making this class better? Don’t wait for someone else to do it. Take ownership and

 responsibility for helping out.

9. ***Be Pleasant***: Be someone who others gravitate towards. Laugh at the teacher’s corny jokes. Laugh at

 yourself. Listen to others and sincerely care what they have to say. When appropriate, share with your

 classmates and enjoy being able to read and discuss books, movies, and issues with others.

10***. Be Interesting***: Boring people get bored. Keep a good attitude and make the assignments and time in

 this class fun and interesting. This class will be as interesting as you make it.

# **Supplies:**  **- One 3-ring notebook with college ruled notebook paper (no spirals)**

- #2 pencils and pens with blue / black ink - Flash Drive or access to Google Drive

- Index Cards (any size) - A big ole’can of “Good Attitude” that you bring to class each day.

**Grades**: All Grades will be on a 100 point scale. Larger assignments will count as a double or triple grade.

**Class participation & Homework**: Students will start each quarter with 100 points for homework and this will count as a double grade. Students who fail to turn in high quality, thoughtful, and legible homework will have points deducted from the starting 100 grade. Students who do not meet “the spirit of Mr. Ferg’s instructions/expectations” for discussion and small group activities will also have deductions.

**ApexFerg.weebly.com:**  On the weebly you will find all documents, assignments, due dates, & rubrics that you will need and they will usually be posted for at least two weeks ahead of the current school week. If a student is absent, he/she is expected to use the website to keep up with assignments.

**Printing Assignments**: All assignments are due on their due date at the beginning of class and they should be printed **before** coming to school. You will **not** be allowed to come to class on the due date and print.

If we use Turnitin.com to submit all formal writings, all papers are due on Turnitin.com **at 12:00 AM the night before** the paper is due in class. Along with that, **I will also expect a hard copy** of the paper with MLA header due in class on the due date.

**Free Choice Reading:** Since reading fosters so many important skills (critical thinking, analytical reasoning, vocabulary improvement etc.), my goal is for my students to have in-class free reading time for 15 minutes per day for at least four days per week. It is the belief of my PLT that by offering this time, we are encouraging students to become lifelong readers and we are allowing them to become more fluent readers. Please see my Weebly site for much more information about this. **Please note** **that I have not read all the books that your child may read** during this time; therefore, it is important for you to have conversations about these books. If you are uncomfortable with your child’s book, please contact me. Students will be required to read at least one free reading book per quarter. Free reading grades will be 50% required book per quarter and 50% in-class reading & discussion/conferences. Failure to have a free reading book in class will result in point deductions.

**Presentations**: I encourage students to use audio/visual aids with each presentation as long as we have the in-class resources. Please put any information that you need to “pull up” for your presentation on a flash drive or google docs. You are expected test your technology out before the due date.

**Ethics / Cheating**: The honor code that I apply to my classroom is the same one that is used at the United States Air Force Academy. The honor code states:

 “***I will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.***”

This code applies to all obvious and common sense situations. It also specifically to the free reading pages you write down, it applies to not using outside sources for answers when it is asking for your own thoughts and ideas, it applies to not sharing homework answers when it is supposed to be your own work. Just so we are clear, unless it is clearly stated otherwise, you will be considered in violation of our classroom honor code if you share homework answers when it is supposed to be your own thoughts or if you print someone’s answers as yours. The person who shares the information and the person who receives the information will both be in violation and you will each receive no credit for the assignment. It is much more mature, and honorable to take a lower grade that you’ve earned than to risk your reputation and our relationship because of this.

**Signature**: I understand all the stated and implied rules and expectations.

Student’s Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Legibly Printed Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Are there any** **IEP / 504 / Medical Concerns / Allergies of which I need to be aware?**

 **Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If yes, please explain them here or please email me specifically at** **JFerguson@wcpss.net**