

# HONORS ENGLISH 9 vs. ENGLISH 9

## In Writing:

English 9 curriculum focuses on developing the skills necessary for students to articulate and support their ideas in writing. Honors English 9 curriculum is designed for students who have mastered the basic skills and are ready for a more in-depth examination into the nuances of argument development.

*What does this look like?*

- Honors English 9 is a good fit for students who can write a 5 paragraph essay with an appropriately developed thesis statement, topic sentences, supporting evidence and evidence analysis.
- English 9 is a good fit for students who are still developing their essay writing skills and need coaching through thesis statement development, evidence selection, and evidence analysis.

## In Reading:

English 9 focuses on *how* to read complex texts through guided discussion focused on developing an understanding of the text's significance. Honors English 9 curriculum assumes that students have the skills to read and comprehend complex texts independently. Honors English 9 assessments are built around that assumption that the class gets the text, and they are ready to analyze and answer questions about their observations regarding how various literary techniques are used in the text.

*What does this look like?*

- Honors English 9 is a good fit for students who can read and annotate book 9 from (an unabridged translation of) *The Odyssey* independently and write a literary analysis response to questions like, "In what way does Odysseus's hubris in Book 9 curse the fate of his comrades? Incorporate two instances from the text in your analysis."
- English 9 is a good fit for a student who can analyze "In what way does Odysseus's hubris in Book 9 curse the fate of his comrades?" after reading Book 9 with a reading guide designed to help students trace specific topics for analysis with specifically highlighted passages AND going over the reading guide in class.

## Other differences:

- Honors students should anticipate the expectation of autonomy and self-management when it comes to completing large assignments.
- Honors students need to demonstrate a willingness to self-advocate for assistance outside of class.
- Honors students are expected to engage, initiate, and participate in class discussions about their reading outside of class.
- Honors English 9 is not a great fit for students who struggle with project self-management, completion of work outside of class or do not enjoy reading.
- While there is overlap in the texts on-level and Honors 9 students read, the pacing in Honors 9 is more rigorous and students are often simultaneously reading a companion text that will be utilized for thematic comparison.

## It's Important to Note:

While Honors 9 and Honors 10 course curriculums are designed to scaffold Advanced Placement curriculum objectives into the instruction, students are not required to take Honors 9 or Honors 10 prior to taking Advanced Placement Language and Composition junior year. Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School prepares students for college. Brebeuf alumni often state that the English instruction they received on how to read, to write about, and to analyze challenging texts in high school gave them an edge over their peers in college humanities courses.