The Writing Center is an excellent resource for students. They can sign up for help with college essays, writing assignments in any subject, or just general writing help. The writing center is located at the top of the stairs at the end of the second floor A hallway (Room A216). There is a composition assistant or other tutors available all day by appointment.

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**9th Grade**

**English 9** focuses on the fundamentals of critical reading and writing. In their first semester, students focus intensively on writing, practicing narrative, argumentative, and persuasive forms. In the second semester, students read fiction and drama and continue to practice writing fundamentals. Works include: Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Romeo and Juliet, and A Raisin in the Sun.

**10th Grade**

**English 10** is arranged thematically to introduce students to different roles literature plays for both the self and society. Students study individual narrative, oral tradition, social commentary, and genre fiction. As writers, they continue to build on fundamental skills, but learn the basics of rhetorical elements. Works include: Catcher in the Rye, The Odyssey, Night, Taming of the Shrew, and 1984.

**11th Grade**

**English 11** builds on the basics of persuasive writing through the study of non-fiction works. While students continue to read fiction, poetry, and drama, they begin to evaluate the effectiveness of rhetorical techniques and apply them to their own writing.

**AP English Literature** is the equivalent to a college Introduction to Literature course. Students read and write intensively, and participate in college style seminars. The major literary genres are studied in depth.

**12th Grade**

**English 12** introduces students to more global works of literature; students continue to work on developing their own voices as writers. As well, they learn to synthesize multiple works and participate in a larger conversation through their writing. Works include Siddhartha, Othello, and shorter pieces by multicultural writers.

**AP English Language** is the equivalent to an English 101 Composition course. Students study writing in depth, both others’ and their own. They learn how to analyze argument, both for substance and rhetoric, and develop arguments of their own. The reading emphasis of the course is on non-fiction.

**Electives (10-12th Grade)**

**Journalism** - Students study journalistic writing, including news articles, feature writing, and opinions; Students also learn newspaper layout, and help to produce the school’s newspaper, The Red and Black.

**Yearbook (The Chariot)** - Students learn page layout, photography, caption writing, feature writing and editing, and produce Northwood’s yearbook, The Chariot.

**Creative Writing** - Students learn the fundamentals of producing creative work in the major literary genres: short stories, poems, and drama, and participate in a reading of their work.

**Oral Interpretation** - Students learn the art of presenting orally fiction, poetry, and persuasive speeches. Many students use what they learn to compete in county Forensics tournaments.

**Short Fiction** - Students study a variety of short works—for example, short stories and short films. Students analyze the elements of shorter works and are encouraged to produce their own.

**Literature as Film** - Students study a variety of classic films whose complexity merits the close analysis often given to literature. While students learn the elements specific to film, they also apply their knowledge of literary elements.