



# Mill Valley High School

## AP/Honors to Grade Level Course Comparison

Below is a comparison of the AP/Honors classes to grade level classes. This document is to provide your family with information to aid in your decision making process.

	Honors English 10	English 10
Summer Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Summer reading does change from year to year. Students will be expected to read and analyze a collection of short fiction and a contemporary novel. Specific instructions for analysis will be provided for each work.</li> <li>● We will begin the semester with a test and essay over these works, so completing the assignment fully is critical for success during the first semester.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None</li> </ul>
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Homework will consist of both reading and writing assignments. Novels will be read outside of class, and students will be expected to complete an average of 30-40 pages of reading between each class period. Written homework will include short essays, long-term essays and projects, online discussions, and short responses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will typically not be assigned daily homework, and when they are assigned homework, they will often be given time to complete assignments and reading in class.</li> <li>● Students will still be expected to complete homework when it is assigned to them.</li> </ul>
Rigor of Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Readings will include a wide variety of novels, plays, poems, short stories, essays, and articles. The pace of the reading will be much quicker than a grade-level English 10 class and students will be expected to retain the content that they read at a high level.</li> <li>● Less time will be spent in class reviewing comprehension and content of the text. Students will generally be expected to understand text independently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Many of the works read in Pre-AP English 10 will also be read in grade-level English 10 class. The grade-level class will move more slowly and probably not read some of the works that we will read in Pre-AP.</li> <li>● Some grade-level teachers allow some in-class time for the completion of reading assignments, as well as more in-depth discussion of events in the literature.</li> </ul>
Rigor of Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We will focus heavily on improving writing and responding to prompts that require in-depth analysis of challenging texts and ideas. Writing activities will include full-length analytical essays, timed writing responses, paragraph response, and more. Improving writing requires constant practice, so we will write constantly. Writing will be graded with higher expectations of fluency and sophistication than freshman year as students learn more about writing and approach AP classes next year. We will write a full-length analytical essay at the end of each unit, a research paper in the spring, and timed writing in-class essays for each unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● English 10 writing will build off of skills taught in English 9. Students will focus on improving analysis quality in their writings as well as the incorporation of evidence from the text to support arguments.</li> <li>● Students will focus on learning to analyze instead of summarize the text in their writing.</li> <li>● Students will complete a variety of writing assignments to improve their ability to write clearly for a variety of purposes and in a variety of contexts.</li> <li>● Students will still complete regular extended writing assignments, though they will be fewer in number.</li> </ul>
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We will develop more in-depth reading skills that focus on comprehension, interpretation, and analysis.</li> <li>● We will improve writing fluency, clarity, and structure by improving the use of relevant textual evidence and specific and clear analysis.</li> <li>● Students will learn to lead and participate in academic discussions that model class discussions and the AP and college level.</li> <li>● Students will be better prepared for a rigorous AP curriculum and successful college career.</li> <li>● The grade will be weighted with an additional half point.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will continue to build high-school-age appropriate writing and reading skills that will prepare them for success as a high school upperclassman and beyond.</li> <li>● Students who feel that English is a challenging subject will find that English 10 does a better job of developing the skills they most need to develop.</li> <li>● Students who take grade-level English 10 should not plan to pursue AP English in the future, since English 10 does not focus on preparing students for AP.</li> <li>● The grade is not weighted.</li> </ul>