



## Practical English 2 2024-2025

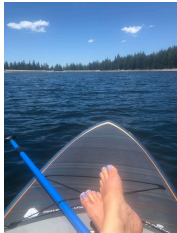
### Teacher Contact Information

Teacher Name: Trisha Zakon  
School Site: Nevada Union High School  
Class: Practical English 2, Period 4, E-10  
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***"If you are not positive energy, you are negative energy." -Mark Cuban***



I grew up in the midwest, but have lived in California for the last 19 years (13 of those here in Nevada County). This is my 23rd year teaching, but only my 4th year here at Nevada Union. Previously, I taught at Placer High School in Auburn, and in San Francisco before that. I love teaching both English and supported studies, and helping students recognize their strengths, know themselves as learners, and get comfortable advocating for themselves. I am the mama of a fierce and funny 12-year-old, Mira Lorelei, who is in 7th grade. I love to be outdoors (especially at the Yuba), paddle board, camp, grow food in our garden, read, and practice yoga.



### Course Description

Practical English 2 is your 10th grade English class created to help you further develop your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. This is the second of four years of English classes you'll have before you graduate and enter the workplace, a trade school, or college. Whatever you choose to do after you graduate high school, the more developed your reading, writing, critical thinking, and communication skills are, the more independent you will be in the future. I promise we will also have some FUN in here.

## Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Practical English 2 is aligned with carefully chosen California State Standards for English/Language Arts (<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>) by the Nevada Union English Department. The following standards are explored and each student has adequate exposure to them in an effort to support individual mastery.

- Produce clear and coherent writing, including being able to write a solid academic paragraph.
- Cite textual evidence to back up a claim or to support an inference.
- Strengthen reading skills and engagement with reading. Analyze how characters develop over the course of a text, how they interact with other characters, and how they advance the plot or a theme.
- Analyze a particular point of view and/or cultural experience in a work of literature.
- Determine word meaning (literal and figurative) and analyze the effect of word choice.
- Participate in a variety of discussions: partner, small group, whole class (build on each other's ideas, stay on topic, and express yourself clearly).
- Present information clearly (eye contact, volume, professional body language).

## Grading Policy

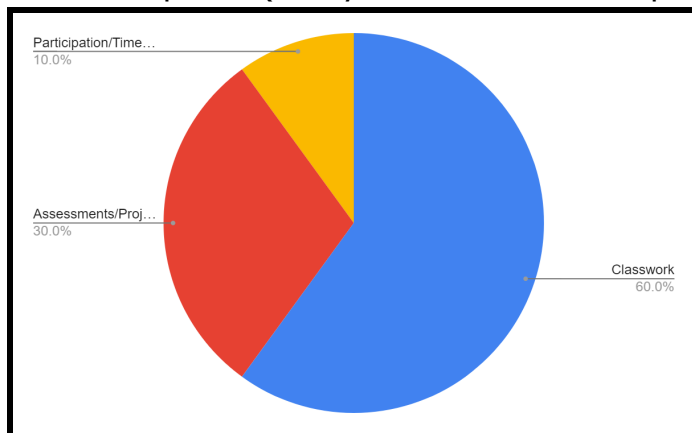
What do grades mean?

In this class your grade is built in this way:

60% Classwork (daily gains)

30% Assessment and Projects (overall mastery)

10% Participation (how you choose to show up / your time card)



**PRO TIP:** The time to think about the grade you want is not at the end of a grading period but at the start when you get an assignment.

## Student Absences / Missing Work

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE CREATED TO BE COMPLETED IN CLASS.** However, a student may have homework if they need extra time or were absent.

**ABSENCES:** In the event of absence, students should refer to Schoology for general instructions. Please message me and we can work out a plan for you. Support for missed work can happen during Flex and/or supported studies.

**MISSING WORK:** If you miss a due date, you can (and should) catch up. You can get support during Flex or supported studies: **PRO TIP: Don't procrastinate. Stay current.**

When life throws something unexpected your way, please talk to me (face-to-face, email, text) so we can find solutions together.

## Class Expectations / Norms

We will develop a set of classroom norms and expectations together. But generally...

- **Respect yourself and your education** – Be prepared. Come on time and ready to work. Prioritize your education. Participate. Believe in what you can do. Advocate for yourself.
- **Respect others** – Speak respectfully. Listen. Use the one mic rule. Support others in working and focusing. Help each other out. Be a positive force in class.
- **Respect the space** – Take care of our resources. Put things away. Pick up after yourself.

## Cell Phone Policy

1. **AWAY** (in the cell phone wall pocket) from bell to bell. This includes also removing earbuds and airpods.
2. You may use your phone during our class break.
3. If you are not able to follow these rules, I am happy to hold your phone for you during our class or send it to the office.
4. The school district has a NO CELL phones during class time. When you are done with work you may read, listen to a playlist on your Chromebook, nap, draw/color, or play a game on your Chromebook (but usually we'll be busy in here!).

**Welcome to English! It's going to be a good year!**