

Parent Permission Form for Ms. Hall's English III and English IV Classes

My classes incorporate a variety of learning tools, such as blogs, wiki pages, novels, and films. This document outlines proposed usage of these tools, along with rules for their use.

Please read through the document and then sign and return the consent page.

I. BLOGS

Through a secure education site called edublogs.org, I have created a teacher account and will create individual student accounts. The student accounts will be linked to my blog, and I will be the administrator for each student account. This means that I will have monitoring tools available to me to ensure student appropriateness and privacy.

1. Each blog will be "semi-public"—this means that anyone (you, grandparents, friends, the world) can VIEW the blog, but only assigned users (me, administrators, other classmates) can post comments to the blog.
2. Students will be identified by first initial and last name, such as jhall, or first 2 initials if more than one student shares a name, such as johall or jchall
3. Students may post pictures on the blog. We will have a class discussion about student safety in the online environment, and I will encourage students to use photographs which hide part of their features (such as holding a book in front of the lower part of their face). Inappropriate or illegal activity in any photo or drawing on the blog will NOT be allowed.
4. Students will need access to an email address. Because online emails (such as yahoo, gmail, etc...) are blocked by LPISD, I will be requesting one of the following: a district-issued email address, OR a class e-pals account (secure, student-centered, school-use email site).

II. WIKISPACES

A wikispace is a dynamic, online document that students can use for collaborative purposes. I have set up a class wikispace to use as a study-tool for all of the content areas we will cover this year. Students have the ability to discuss literature, current events, topics of interest, and to add research to each content area. Link: <http://mshallteachesenglish.wikispaces.com/>

I have created a wiki-warranty which outlines the purpose and use of the wikispace, available for review here: <http://mshallteachesenglish.edublogs.org/for-parents/wiki-warranty/>

In the interest of students' safety, the following restrictions have been configured on the wiki:

- Only the teacher can enter registrations
- Only students, parents, and staff members with a related interest to this class are allowed to add to or edit the wiki.
- All wiki content is subject to teacher approval and/or deletion.
- The teacher will be notified of any edits to the wiki.
- All wiki content will be removed from public view after the school year 2009-2010 has ended.
- The wiki will adhere to the Acceptable Use Guidelines provided by LPISD.
- Student photographs will not be used without parent permission.

- Students will be identified by first initial and last name, such as jhall, or first 2 initials if more than one student shares a name, such as johall or jchall

III. NOVELS

Students need to purchase the following novels for use in class:

English 3:

- 1st six weeks: *Ellen Foster* (by Kaye Gibbons) (ISBN: 0375703055)
- 5th six weeks: a student-selected novel. This can be a book from the library or home.

English 4:

- 3rd six weeks: *Time And Again* (by Jack Finney) (ISBN: 0684801051)
- 5th six weeks: Students will choose one of the following novels:
 - a. *Uglies* (by Scott Westerfield) (ISBN: 0689865384)
 - b. *Feed* (by M. T. Anderson) (ISBN: 0763622591)

IV. FILMS

I use a variety of films throughout the year to illustrate literature or thematic elements. Below is a list of possible films which might be shown or referenced (not all will be shown). Some of them are rated R (such as *The Patriot*, for bloody battle scenes), but it is my belief that students at the junior and senior level are mature enough to view these brief scenes. Please indicate on the consent page if there are any films you object to your student viewing. All of the films have a link on my blog: <http://mshallteachesenglish.edublogs.org/misc/the-best-movies-ever/> For each film, click the link to learn more from the Internet Movie Database (<http://imdb.com>).

English III:

Ellen Foster, *The Crucible*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Great Gatsby*, *What A Way To Go: Life at the End of Empire*, *The Patriot*, *Dances with Wolves*, *The Color Purple*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *The Final Countdown*, *The Princess Bride*, *Star Wars* (original 1977 film), *Hello Dolly*, *The Out of Towners* (1970 version), *Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam*, *Far and Away*

English IV:

Clash of the Titans, *Beowulf* (cartoon version), *Excalibur*, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (selected scenes), *Camelot*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Gattaca*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Somewhere in Time*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Schindler's List*

General Films (scenes shown for thematic discussions or journaling):

Tootsie, *Funny Girl*, *My Girl*, *Legally Blonde*, *All of Me*, *Young Frankenstein*, *King Kong* (1977), *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *On Golden Pond*, *Footloose*, *The Last Starfighter*, *Places in the Heart*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Gorillas in the Mist*, *Do The Right Thing*, *Field of Dreams*, *Not Without My Daughter*, *Juno*, *Wall-E*.

PARENT CONSENT and CONTACT FORM for Ms. Hall's English III and English IV classes
(please print neatly)

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Student Address: _____

Student Phone Number (cell): _____ (okay to call? Yes No)

Parent Day-time Phone Number: _____ (okay to call? Yes No)

Parent Evening Phone Number: _____

Parent Email(s)—please list the email address where it is easiest to reach you:

→NOTE: if you email me at halljo@lpisd.org, your student will receive an extra credit grade of 100 added into the current six weeks (and I'll be able to add you to my address book for ease of contact!)

Please check the following if you are giving consent:

_____ I have read the blog information and give my permission for my student to have a class blog.

_____ I have read the wiki information and give my permission for my student to use the class wiki.

_____ I have read the information about novels, and agree to purchase the specified books in a timely manner. (Note: English 3 students need Ellen Foster as soon as possible).

_____ I have read the information about films and give my permission for my student to view the listed films.

Any changes, thoughts, or exclusions? Please list them here:

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____