Welcome to Critical Thinking and Study Skills Class! I would like to take this opportunity to share with you this overview of our classroom policies and procedures, as well as a general list of what is expected of you throughout this school year. I am excited you are here, and look forward to spending a wonderful school year together!

PRHS Mission: To graduate all students in four years or less, fully prepared for college and careers (Diploma with Plan).

Course Description: This course is designed to develop skills related to critical thinking, learning and problem solving, enabling students to enhance their performance in both academic and non-academic areas. Strategies for acquiring, storing and retrieving information, time management, critical thinking operations and processes, strategies for oral and written communication, and problem solving skills including test taking skills are an integral part of this course.

Critical Thinking is offered as a rigorous academic elective course that prepares students for success in high school. Each week students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, motivational activities and academic survival skills. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, study skills and test taking, note taking, and research. In Critical Thinking, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading to support their academic growth.

Critical Thinking is designed to prepare students for higher education through high-level reading, writing, cooperative learning and inquiry skills.

Classroom Expectations/Norms to Ensure Student Success

➢ POSITIVE Attitude
  o “Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it!”

➢ RESPECT
  o At all times, towards everyone, and everything.
➢ **BELIEVE**
   - In yourself, in your peers, in me - together we will succeed in all we set out to do!

➢ **Responsibility**
   - Come to class on time; be prepared; participate; complete tasks.

➢ **Determination/Desire**
   - Be ready to give it your best always; failure is NOT an option!

**School Wide Expectations** (We will be mindful and respectful of these policies in our classroom at all times)

➢ **No Cheating/Plagiarizing** – do your own, original work at all times; no credit will be given if cheating and/or plagiarizing is found.

**Materials**
   - ✓ Student should always have Paper and Pencils/Pens

**Supplies Needed/Wish List**
   - ✓ Disinfecting Wipes
   - ✓ Snacks
   - ✓ Ream of Computer Paper
   - ✓ Kleenex/Tissues

**Absences/Make-up Work**
**YOU** are responsible for making up any missed work while absent. It is **your responsibility to check the assignment board for what it is you missed.** For an excused absence, reasonable time will be allowed to make-up work required for credit.
Tardy Policy
Being “on time” to class means you are in the classroom when the door is closed, after the tardy bell rings. If you are tardy to class, please come in quietly, sign in and begin working promptly on assignment. Please DO NOT disturb others who have already began their assignment.

Dress Code
Students are expected to follow all school rules and guidelines regarding dress code at all times.

Passes
Passes to the restroom are for emergencies only.

Critical Thinking Elective Curriculum
The Critical Thinking Curriculum focuses on Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration and Reading. Higher level thinking skills will be taught and higher-level questions are expected at all times.

Cornell Notes MUST be taken during every reading unit, in class. Note taking is YOUR responsibility (don’t wait for teacher to tell you when and/or what notes should be taken), and the notes are to help you study and review in order to retain information learned. Cornell Notes will be graded periodically, with no prior notice. Notes should be reviewed every night. While studying your notes, you will be expected to use the “Cornell Notes Repetition Strategies” - such as highlighting using multiple colors, marking the text (circles/underlines), chunking, creating questions and/or note/flash cards, and reviewing/revising with others.

Homework
- Homework may vary week to week. Any assignment not completed in class must be finished for homework and turned in on, or before, the due date.

- Projects, writing assignments, and research will be done for homework from time to time.

- Read, read, read! Get into the habit of reading at least 20 minutes every day.
Study Time
As a Critical Thinking student, it is expected that you also STUDY a minimum of 4 hours per week at home. Study time IS NOT the same as the time needed to complete classwork, projects, and/or homework assignments. During study time you should be reviewing and interacting with your Cornell Notes, completing extra practice, looking over/creating study cards/flash cards, quizzing/practicing with a friend, etc.

Grade Reports (online Gradebook)
It is expected that you monitor your grades almost on a daily basis, and practice self-advocacy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Categories</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formative</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summative</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Policy
Assignments will fall into one of four categories (diagnostic, formative, summative, or final exam) and each category will account for a specific percentage of your overall grade. At the end of the grading period your overall average will be compared to the Volusia County grading scale to determine the letter grade earned for the marking period.

Parents and students are expected to check the online Gradebook often to review grades/performance in class. Gradebook will be the primary source of contact/communication with you regarding grades.

Volusia County Grading Scale
A = 90 - 100 **EXPECTATION**  
B = 80 - 89  
C = 70 - 79
Additional Support/Make-Up/Retakes
Students will have many opportunities to receive additional help, remediation/retake sessions, and make-up/enrichment sessions.

SLANT Strategy (Use in all classes)

S- Sit up Straight
You tend to listen and pay attention better if you sit up straight.

L- Lean Forward
Leaning forward helps you to focus on the teacher.

A- Ask Questions
Don't be afraid to ask questions. You might be asking questions that many others want to know the answer to.

N- Nod your Head
Nodding your head gives a visual to the teacher that you understand what is being said.

T- Talk to the teacher
Get to know your teacher. By talking to your teacher you make yourself known.
Dear Parents/Guardians: This course syllabus is intended to provide you with important information so that together we can make sure your student has a wonderful school year. Please keep in mind regular/prompt attendance, and frequent communication is key factors to your child’s success in high school.

I encourage you to stay in contact with me via phone, e-mail, or written notes, and please check the online Gradebook often to monitor grades and assignment completion.

Please note, periodically, throughout the course, the class will be viewing educational/motivational movies, and/or video/sound clips that are meant to enhance and support the instructional units of study. These videos may be of G, PG, PG-13, or R (due to some language, and/or mild violence) ratings. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and/or concerns.

This form serves as my consent and permission for my student to:

1. View movies/video/sound clips associated with the learning of instructional units
2. Complete computer specific web based activities as they relate to instructional objectives
3. Media – allow your student to participate in photographs or videos for the purpose of this course; allow for your student’s work to be shared/displayed
4. Participate in the reading and discussion of some topics that may be controversial in nature (example: the Holocaust)

Parent and Student: Please sign below and return to me indicating that you have read and understand the Critical Thinking classroom policies and procedures. Parent, your signature gives consent and permission to your student to participate in activities #1-4 stated above.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Achieving Together,
Mr. Goode
Critical Thinking Teacher

Parent Signature ____________________________ Date _____

Student Signature ____________________________ Date _____
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Alpha Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Parent/Guardian name(s) __________________________________________________________

Current Mailing Address __________________________________________________________

Contact Telephone Number (Home) ________________________________________________

Contact Number (Parent Cell) __________________________________________________

Other Contact Number __________________________________________________________

Parent e-mail _________________________________________________________________

Parent e-mail _________________________________________________________________

Comments: