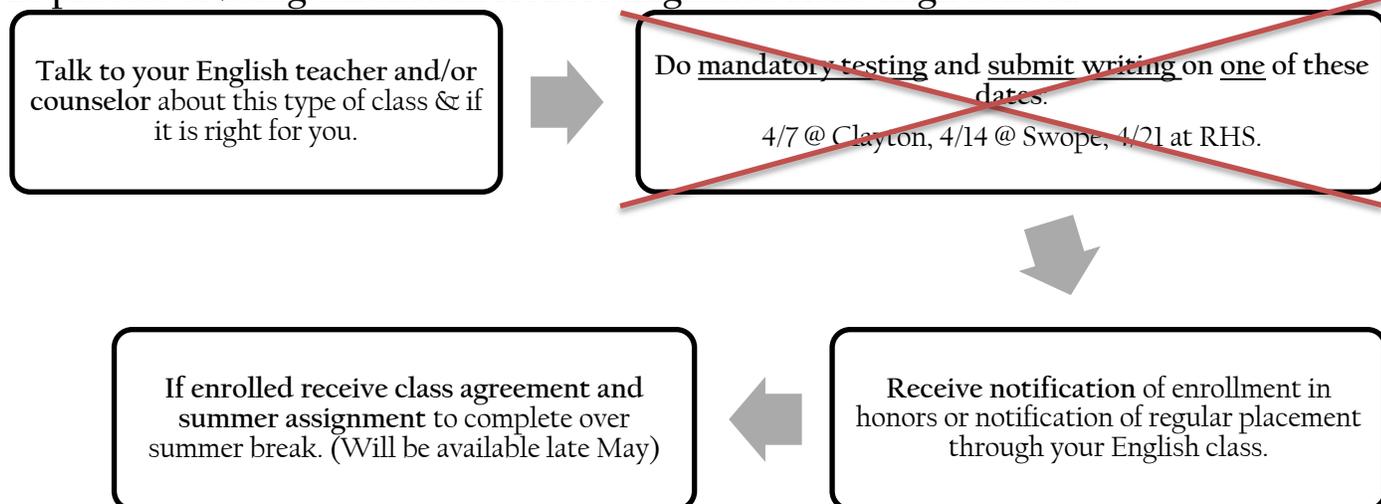




Dear Incoming Reno High Freshman,

Thank you for considering Reno High's honors English program! Enrolling in freshmen honors is a process and it is important to know and follow each step to help make the transition smooth. The flow chart below outlines the entire process.

The process of being enrolled in Honors English at Reno High School:



We have several requirements to enter honors English: 1) obtain your English teacher's recommendation or to self-select the course knowing you can meet the stated criteria for the department, 2) complete a mandatory reading and writing submission on one of the dates provided, and 3) maintain parameters for honors success.

1) TEACHER RECOMMENDATION OR SELF-SELECTION BASED ON GUIDELINES.

Reno High School Freshmen Regular English vs. Honors English

*This is a guideline of practices in the department; this may vary by unit, class, & teacher.

	Regular English	Honors English
Prerequisites	n/a	Requires in house testing, approval, and completion of summer assignment
Homework amount/ night	20-30 minutes	20-60 minutes
Average reading/ night	5-15 pages	25 pages
Regular homework & classwork assignments	Reading, study guides or reading questions, projects and shorter papers, vocabulary, Accelerated Reading 20 points per semester	Reading, grammar, vocabulary, Accelerated Reading 30-40 points per semester
Average time to write an essay	2 weeks to go through process with class time, peer editing, & revisions	1-3 weeks with class time and independent work
Specific skills needed for class	This class is appropriate for most students.	Study skills, internal motivation, organization & planning, high reading & writing skills
Discussion expectations	Some volunteer, some teacher prompted responses	Voluntary for whole class, small groups and partnerships required
Weekly vocabulary	10 new words, 10 rollover words, word banks vary by teacher	20 new words, rollover of 20 old words, must recall correct spellings

2) MANDATORY READING TEST AND WRITING SUBMISSION FOR ALL STUDENTS

The next requirement is a mandatory reading test and writing submission, which will be evaluated by the honors/AP English teachers at Reno High. We have several dates available, pick one testing time and place that is most convenient for you. **The test will take approximately 1 hour** (depending on your timing). This is a mandatory reading test for ALL incoming prospective honors students regardless of your current level. If you choose not to show up for any of the tests, your name will be removed from the honors list and you will be enrolled in regular English. Please **bring a pencil** to the test and your **writing submission**. You will be answering multiple choice questions based on readings we provide and submitting your writing.

WRITING SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose **one** of the following four prompts to write about in a one to two page typed response. Please use the writing process to arrive at your final product. Though you will use the process, only the final draft needs to be submitted. Be prepared to physically turn in your hard copy of your final draft when you come to test. Please save an electronic copy of your essay. You must also submit your writing to Turnitin.com (see instructions for this process below).

Writing Topic Options:

Topic A: What one thing makes you especially angry? EXPLAIN why this makes you so angry. Be sure to include examples.

Topic B: Think of a time when you realized someone you admired was only human. Write in detail what the realization was, how you made it, and how it affected you.

Topic C: Research shows that people use cell phones to send text messages nearly as often as for making telephone calls. What are the advantages and disadvantages of texting and talking? Give specific examples to show why someone might choose to text instead of calling or to call instead of texting.

Topic D: A character in Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth* says, "[W]hat you learn today, for no reason at all, will help you discover all the wonderful secrets of tomorrow". Describe something you learned "for no reason at all" and tell a story about an advantage you gained from the knowledge.

Submit papers to Turnitin.com **Submission Deadline APRIL 24 / As Soon As Possible**

1. Go to www.turnitin.com
2. If you already have an account, skip ahead to Step 5.
3. In the upper right hand corner, click on "Create an Account".
4. It will ask you what type of user you are – pick "student".
5. Enter the Class ID:
23577066
6. Enter the password – Briggs
7. Enter your email address. You may use a parent/guardian email address if necessary.
8. Create a password. It must be 6-12 characters and include at least one number. It is case sensitive. Record your password here: _____.
9. Pick a secret question in case you forget your password.
10. Enter your first and last name. (This is how we will see you on turnitin.com)
11. Click "agree" for the user agreement.
12. Click "finish".
13. Now you can submit your paper. Make sure your name is included on your paper.
14. When you submit your paper, you can submit it as an attachment or copy and paste it into the website.
- 15.

Available testing dates and locations are:

Date & Time	Location
Tuesday, 4/7 at 2:00 p.m.	at Clayton in the cafeteria
Tuesday, 4/14 at 2:00 p.m.	at Swope in the cafeteria
Tuesday, 4/21 at 2:40 p.m.	at RHS in the Library

We look forward to meeting you. If you have any testing questions or concerns, please contact Christy Briggs at cbiggs@washoeschools.net. The Reno High English department wishes you success in your future years with us!

Christy Briggs
English Department Lead