

**MVLA
2025-26
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: English III

School: Alta Vista High School

UC/CSU requirement: N/A

Textbook and/or other learning resources:

- *Always Running* by Luis J. Rodriguez
- *I, Robot* by Isaac Azimov (selected stories)
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *I Read It, but I Don't Get It* - Cris Tovani
- *Strategies That Work* By Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis
- Selected Units from the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum

Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:

English III is intended to improve reading fluency, practice comprehension strategies, and provide structure for writing mechanics at the sentence, paragraph, and short-essay levels. Students have the opportunity to accelerate credit acquisition through focused practice on grammar and mechanics, vocabulary development, and self-paced independent reading. An introduction to rhetoric and argument writing is included to help prepare them for success in English IV.

Course Outline/Units of Study/[CTE Industry Standards](#)(If applicable to your course):

Independent Reading: Self-paced independent reading using response journals and comprehension constructors.

ERWC - Introducing the rhetorical Situation

I, Robot - Research Unit: Fear of A.I.: The Risks and the Reality

Always Running - Trace the development of themes and main idea over the course of a text. Determine how language functions in different contexts.

Long Way Down - Analyze how an author uses makes effective choices to affect meaning and style. Determine point-of-view and how it affects narrative structure and tone.

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

- a. Classwork/homework, 0%
- b. Discussions & Activities, 0%
- c. Cumulative assessments 100%

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

- a. Note-taking & Reading guides, Response paragraphs and minithemes
- b. Exit Tickets, guided notes, interview notes, rubrics for verbal presentations and discussions
- c. Writing and Presentation Rubrics, Goal-setting reflections and revisions

3. Grading scales:

A+	99 -100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-98	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

- a. Students are expected to practice responsible study skills and complete homework given in a thorough manner. Assignments not completed in class are homework. If assignments are not complete the next grading period, it is considered late and therefore half credit.

5. Excused absence make-up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):
 - a. Absent students with an excused absence are expected to see their teacher the day they return to arrange any make up work. In general, students have one week to make up missing assignments.
6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):
 - a. Honesty, trust, and integrity are vital components of the educational process. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to: copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism, submitting work generated using a LLM AI such as ChatGPT, copying from another's exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests and the use of unauthorized notes/ materials on exams. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the Parent/Student handbook for information about violations of Academic Integrity and how violations will be handled.
 - b. Assignments completed outside the classroom that don't match the achievement witnessed inside the class may be held and their credit denied until the student can explain and/or reproduce work at an equivalent degree of competence.
7. Late work practices:
 - a. Late work is accepted for full credit at any time during the academic year. However, if a student is missing a Summative Assessment or is more than 30 points behind, he or she will be required to attend 6th period until caught up.
8. Revision practices:
 - a. Students are expected to revise essays. As the rough draft is written, I will provide comments, suggestions, and directions for revision. For full credit, The final piece of writing must meet all requirements of the assignment and address all comments and suggestions provided by the teacher. After the writing is scored on the rubric, students may further revise their writing to achieve a higher score. This opportunity may be limited by the teacher's available time.
9. Extra credit practices:
 - a. Extra Credit is available to any students in good standing in the class. To be in good academic standing, a student must:
 - i. Have completed all summative assessments and major assignments
 - ii. Have earned at least 70% of daily points
10. LMS Used:

Students will use Google Classroom for writing assignments.

Instructors' email addresses:

matthew.phillips@mvla.net
vinicio.rubalcava@mvla.net

Additional information:

Cell Phones are not allowed in the classroom unless expressly requested by the instructor.

No videotaping inside the classroom, including audio recordings, is permitted. Videotaping without individuals' consent violates both EdCode ([51512](#)) and the Penal Code ([PC 632](#)).