Green Meadow High School Writing Guidelines

English Expectations and Unacceptable Errors

English 9 – by Spring Term

No run-on sentences, fragments or comma splices
Accurate subject-verb agreement
Correct capitalization and use of periods
Correct spelling of certain words (see the list)
Correct spelling of book titles and character names
Correct comma use: in compound sentences with coordinating conjunctions
After certain introductory elements in a sentence
(e.g. adverb clauses, participial phrases, a succession of prepositional phrases, appositives)
Correct semi-colon use
Correct possessive forms and punctuation
Paragraph unity and good topic sentences

• English teachers will collect your lists of roots and prefixes at the end of the year, and return them to you in the fall.

English 10 – English 9 expectations plus the following:

No mistakes with essential and non-essential modifier use of commas
• Jimmy Waldorf who is my cousin is an artist. *Jimmy Waldorf, who is my cousin, is an artist.*

Pronoun usage and agreement
• It certainly must have been *her* she. I know the thief to be *he* him.
• Mother called Jane and *I* me in to dinner. All but Sarah and *we* us are going to the lecture.

Correct usage (see list)
Correct subordination and reduction
• Mr. Henderson was stooping to pick the rare lady slipper when the scorpion bit him.
   Just as Mr. Henderson was stooping to pick the rare lady slipper, the scorpion bit him.
• When they were stranded by a flood, the sailors waited for rescuers.
   Stranded by a flood, the sailors waited for rescuers.

Clear reference
• There is a blue spot on my shirt? Can you remove *it* the stain?

Paragraph unity and development (variety and richness of support)
Active verb use
• The rose was handed to the boy. Frederick handed the boy the rose.

Variety of paragraph structure
English 11 – English 10 expectations plus the following:

Elimination of other usage errors (see Chapter 10 in Warriners)
Dictional appropriateness
Adult sentence structure and emphasis
Footnotes and bibliographies
Paragraph unity, development and coherence

English 12 – English 11 expectations plus the following:

Comparison-contrast techniques mastered
Adult diction and structure in sentences and paragraphs

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