

## **Communications 11 Course Outline — 2007/2008**

### **Burnaby North Secondary School — English Department**

**Course Focus:** *Communications 11 is designed to help students develop practical communication skills such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Focus is placed on vocabulary development, reading for information, detecting bias, and developing personal responses to non-literary sources such as newspaper and magazine articles, editorials, advertisements, and visual media such as television and film.*

*Literary works such as short stories, poetry, novels, and plays will also be studied for the purpose of developing critical thinking skills such as inference and deduction.*

Communications 11 is an alternative to English 11. Students who pass Communications 11 take Communications 12 to fulfill graduation requirements. Students who wish to enroll in English 12 must take English 11 rather than Communications 11. (Note that Communications 12 does not meet entrance requirements for universities, but does for many colleges and technical institutes.)

Please note that attendance, punctuality, and participation are expected of students in this course. Since most coursework will be completed in class, non-attendance, tardiness, and lack of participation will result in incomplete assignments and low marks.

#### **Overview:**

**Reading:** Students will practise reading skills while focusing on developing strategies for aiding comprehension. Students will read a variety of materials including short stories, novels, plays, poetry, essays, and newspaper articles. Students will be expected to demonstrate the use of a variety of reading strategies and demonstrate comprehension of written material through written and oral response.

**Writing:** Students will practise writing for a variety of purposes and in a variety of formats, including letters, notes, summaries, paragraphs, essays, and reports. The focus will be on developing clear and organized written communication in purpose-appropriate formats. Students will also study formal grammar as an aid to improve the clarity of their writing.

**Speaking:** Students will practise speaking skills in both formal presentations and in informal class discussions. The focus will be on developing clear and organized oral communication as well as on skills specific to speaking to an audience.

**Listening:** Students will practise listening skills every day, beginning with listening to instruction and listening to class discussions. Listening is a skill that requires conscious effort and is a learned skill. Listening skills will be evaluated through activities such as paraphrasing, note-taking, responding, and following directions.

#### **Assessment:**

Assessment is on an on-going basis. Student work is assessed every class, which makes regular attendance crucial to success. There is no final exam for this course.