

## Is Honors English Right for Me?

Choosing the right class for you is a combination of many factors. If you are considering taking Honors English, this chart can help you think through the expectations and make an informed decision. When you read the questions and answers, circle and add up the points for your responses.

	Yes	No	Information
<b>I am curious about and interested in great classical literature and authors and the art of literature.</b>	5	0	Having interest in the subject matter is one of the key indicators that taking the Honors course is a good decision for you.
<b>I am prepared to read and annotate about 20 pages per night.</b>	5	0	The Honors program has more required texts during the school year than the regular English course. Being able to manage your time and to read actively for homework is necessary. If you are prepared for this, then Honors English may be a good choice.
<b>I like reading.</b>	3	0	If you enjoy reading as an activity, this is one indicator that might make taking Honors a good decision. If you answer no to this indicator or hate reading, this will be a challenging class for you. Your homework is mainly reading carefully and annotating thoughtfully.
<b>I like exploring ideas with others in class discussions. I like to participate by speaking and sharing with others.</b>	3	0	Speaking about literature is one of the key activities in the Honors classroom. Students must be willing to talk and discuss in partners, in small groups, and in full-class situations.
<b>I enjoy talking about human nature, what motivates people and why they do what they do. I enjoy philosophical conversations.</b>	3	0	Literature centers around characters who ask us to question the human condition, and it asks us the big questions about life. If you enjoy thinking deeply and questioning text and life, this is an indicator that the course may be a good fit for you.
<b>I enjoy coming up with my own ideas and theories. I like to delve beneath the surface and analyze ideas and theories as well. I am comfortable with ambiguity.</b>	3	0	The study of literature is one where creativity and the ability to think critically are essential. Other than simple comprehension, there are not necessarily right or wrong answers in literature; there are simply answers that are more defensible than others. This uncertainty can be frustrating to some. If you welcome the idea to deeply examine texts and create your own ideas, honors may be right for you.
<b>I am willing to work hard and struggle because I enjoy learning new material.</b>	3	0	An Honors level course is designed to challenge students to read great works of literature that have stood the test of time. It requires more time, attention, and critical thinking than a non-honors course. If you want the challenge and are willing to strive through the tough parts, then Honors English may be right for you.
<b>I know how to self-monitor my comprehension and use strategies to help me understand when a text is challenging.</b>	3	0	Students usually find their honors texts the most difficult books they have ever read. If you know what to do to help yourself understand when reading gets challenging, this is an indicator that honors might be right for you.

<b>I know how to approach a writing prompt and structure an essay with an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.</b>	3	0	You will be diving into formal writing immediately. If you have these writing skills, you will feel more confident and less overwhelmed. If you struggle with foundational writing skills, Honors English will be challenging for you.
<b>I want to take AP literature and AP composition, and I know Honors English is designed to help prepare me for those.</b>	2	0	AP courses look good on your high school transcript and can allow you to earn college credit early. More importantly, they prepare you for college level work. If this is your goal, honors English may be right for you. Keep in mind that this by itself may not provide you with the motivation for the course. If this is the only indicator for which you can answer yes, or one of only two or three, you may want to focus on the other AP courses available at Homestead that are more in line with your interests.
<b>I have found my regular English classes far too easy for me, and I want a class that will challenge me.</b>	1	0	If you find yourself bored in your English classes, you may want a class that will offer you something more. This is an indicator that Honors English may be right for you.
<b>English is my favorite class. I always get good grades in English.</b>	1	0	This may indicate that Honors would be right for you; however, if you like English class because it is easy for you, make sure to reflect on whether you will still carry that enjoyment if you need to put in more effort than you are used to. Are you motivated only by good grades or are you interested in learning more about literature and writing?
<b>I turn in all my English assignments complete and on-time.</b>	1	0	Taking responsibility for your own learning is an important trait for success in an honors level course. If you have not been able to do this in previous English courses, you may struggle to keep up with the work in Honors English. Keep in mind that if this is the only indicator, or one of only two or three, for which you can answer yes, you may want to focus on other honors and AP courses at Homestead more in line with your interests.
<b>I want to take as many honors courses as possible for a good transcript.</b>	1	0	Striving for excellence is always admirable. If you answered yes to this indicator in addition to some other indicators, this might be part of your reasoning for taking honors. If this is the only indicator pointing you to honors or one of only two or three indicators, you may want to consider other courses more in line with your interests.
<b>My friends are taking Honors English.</b>	0	0	Though it is lovely to have common experiences with your friends, you will have many other common experiences with them in high school, and you will make friends in all your classes. As opposed to middle school where you start forging common identities with your peers in addition to your families, in high school it is time to start forging your identity as an individual and asking yourself what your true interests are.
<b>I want to take AP World History or AP U.S. History, and I think I need to take Honors English to qualify.</b>	0	0	Honors English is <b>not</b> a prerequisite or requirement for any other course at Homestead High School. This is <b>not</b> an indicator for choosing Honors English and should absolutely <b>not</b> factor into your decision.

**If you add up 8 or fewer points:** Honors English may not be the best choice for you.

**If you add up around 15 points:** Honors English is a possibility for you. If you have the desire, you will learn and grow in the class.

**If you have 20 or more points:** Honors English is probably your best choice.