JULIAN MERCER

ENGLISH TEACHER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

High school English teacher with 10+ years teaching literature, composition, and AP Language to grades 9 through 12. Builds writing growth through frequent feedback, discussion, and student choice in reading. Leads the department's common assessment work and coaches new teachers.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

English Department Chair Aug 2023 - Present
Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, VA

- Lead a department of 11 teachers, running monthly meetings on pacing, grading consistency, and common assessments.
- Teach three sections of AP Language and Composition, with 74% of students scoring 3 or higher on the 2026 exam.
- Introduced a shared writing rubric for grades 9 and 10, which narrowed score gaps between teachers on moderated essay samples.
- Mentor two first-year teachers through weekly classroom observations and co-planning of unit assessments.
- Started a student literary magazine with 40 submissions in its first year and a spring publication night for families.

English Teacher Aug 2018 - Jul 2023

- Taught grade 10 and grade 11 English to about 125 students a year with a mix of novels, short texts, and argument writing units.
- Raised the share of students passing the state reading assessment from 78% to 86% by adding weekly timed analysis paragraphs and conferencing.
- Used peer review and one-on-one conferences to move students' essays from summary to analysis over each quarter.
- Taught parents to follow their child's grades in the student portal at fall open house, which cut late-assignment emails by about a third.
- Designed a choice reading program with 200+ titles that increased independent reading minutes logged by students.
- Coached the school debate team of 14 students to two regional finals appearances in five seasons.

English Teacher Aug 2016 - Jun 2018
Loudoun County Public Schools, Leesburg, VA

- Taught grade 9 English and a reading support class for students reading below grade level.
- Moved reading support students an average of one grade level in a year, measured on benchmark assessments.
- Wrote and graded weekly writing prompts with comment-based feedback, returning most work within a week.
- Led an after-school writing lab that served about 15 students a week during state testing preparation.

CORE SKILLS

Curriculum design | Literary analysis instruction | Argument and research writing | AP Language and Composition | Differentiated instruction | Formative assessment | Writing conferences | Socratic discussion | Classroom management | Google Classroom | Turnitin | Parent communication | Mentoring new teachers

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Teaching, English Education, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

CERTIFICATIONS

Virginia Collegiate Professional License, English 6-12 | Praxis English Language Arts Content Knowledge | CPR and First Aid