

Dual Enrollment English
2015-2016
Summer Reading Assignment


Welcome to your first year of college English. The Dual Enrollment English class combines the requirements for your college composition requirements, as determined by Pasco-Hernando State College, with a survey of British, American, and World literature. **Please note: This is a demanding class, both in terms of the literature on which we will focus and the time you will need to devote to understanding and writing about it. A high level of commitment and responsibility are mandatory. You can expect multiple projects and essays and hefty reading assignments. In addition, you will be expected to participate regularly in discussions, both in class and electronically, and in-class exercises. Success in this college-level class is going to require serious work and a willingness to meet deadlines.**

The payoff? Not only will you graduate from high school with the ability to tackle any kind of essay assignment in any college class, but, after the successful completion of this class with a grade of C or better each semester, you will have earned six college credits and will not need to take college composition or an English course next year, unless you choose to do so (note: if you take this course as a sophomore, you will need only one more high school English credit)!

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

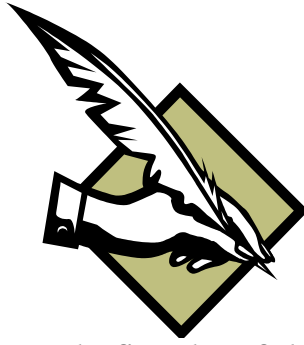
The groundwork for Dual Enrollment English—the foundation—is the Summer Reading Assignment. Here you will begin learning to read literature critically. Reading critically is a little like becoming a detective, examining texts for clues that add to their significance and meaning. Think of this summer assignment as a warm-up exercise. You are required, first of all, ***How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster** and the essay **“How to Mark a Book” by Dr. Mortimer J. Adler**. Foster’s book will provide you with a sufficient groundwork to begin looking at literature from a more mature, scholarly standpoint. Designed to provide a sort of boot camp introduction to the art of academic reading and text analysis, this book will equip you with a range of strategies by which you can gain insight into, and a greater appreciation for, the novels, stories, poems, plays, and essays we will read this coming year.

After you have read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, you will need to obtain and **read ONE novel by one of the following authors** marking up the book according to Adler’s instructions as you read:

-  William Makepeace Thackeray
-  Thomas Hardy
-  Henry Fielding
-  Elizabeth Gaskell

I will be requesting that these books be stocked at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at the Shops at Wiregrass in Wesley Chapel. The Land O’Lakes Library has been notified of your reading requirements, and the necessary books are also available from Amazon.com. If you choose to read your book on-line, or using an electronic device, you must keep a detailed and ongoing reading journal in lieu of marking up your book.





Your assignment (described below) is due on the first day of class. Do not disappoint your instructor on the first day of class. Have your completed and neatly typed essay and your annotated novel with you in class on the first day.

While you are reading, keep post-it notes or page markers of some kind and a pen, pencil, or highlighter close at hand. Using these tools will help you to read actively and critically, to have a meaningful conversation with the text, and to remember your ideas (the better to write about them!). Reading actively and keeping track of your ideas will also make you a brilliant contributor to in-class discussions. This assignment will count as large portion of your first semester grade. Failure to complete this assignment will negatively impact your first semester grade and will cast aspersions on your scholarship and dedication.

THE ASSIGNMENT:

First, read *How to Read Literature like a Professor* and read Adler's essay on text marking. You will then use the insight and strategies contained in these useful resources to tackle *one* of the books by *one* of the authors on the above list. I strongly recommend that you hop online (Amazon.com has both critical and reader reviews of these books) and do a little research before you decide which book to read.

After you have made your decision, read the novel and mark it up thoughtfully, looking for as *many* literary elements as you can find. Then, when you have finished, **craft an essay in which you focus upon and write an essay discussing the use of ONE literary element that creates meaning in the novel.** There is a whole range of literary elements available for examination in these books (significance of setting, theme, nature of the conflict, symbolism, allusion, archetypes, etc.), and any **one** of them will serve. *Remember to introduce the texts formally the first time you mention them in your essay, and give just enough background information about the plot and characters in the novel you select that I will be able to follow your reasoning—no more than ten lines of summary.* Your essay will be **no less than** three and **no more than** five pages long, will conform to MLA formatting standards, and will cite the text through quotation and paraphrase, i.e. you will use specific examples and direct quotes from the novel in your essay. **Do not generalize; be specific.**

*****Keep your notes and your annotations. I will be checking them in class, and we will be using them when we discuss the novels and the supplements in the first few class sessions.**

Essay Guidelines:

- >Use 1.25" margins on left and right. 1" margins on the top and bottom (approx. 1" all around works fine).
- >Use Times New Roman size 12 black font.
- >Double-space your essay throughout, and include MLA in-text citations.
- >Essays without in-text citations **and** an MLA Works Cited page will not be accepted.
- >Your name, my name, class, and date go on the first page in the upper left-hand corner (double-spaced).
- >Titles should be centered and typed in standard size 12 font. DO NOT boldface, underline, or otherwise glorify them.
- >Page numbers should be on the top right corner of each page with your last name (in a header).
- >Staple your paper or use a binder clip to keep it organized. Loose essays will not be accepted.
- >Your essay should be no shorter than the assigned length.

Include all notes and rough drafts behind your final draft. I need to see evidence of the writing process.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail <mwilson@pasco.k12.fl.us> if you have any questions about the assignment. Good luck with your reading and writing this summer. I look forward to getting to know you as a writer and as a person in the coming year!