

Dear Future AP English Language and Composition Student,

Before summer starts, please be aware of the following:

1. There is a summer reading assignment, and it is attached to this notice. You are expected to complete this assignment. Electing not to complete this assignment will jeopardize your grade from the very beginning (and also impact the first impression you give the teacher). If you do not complete the assignment, please have a parent contact a member of the guidance team to make other arrangements for your English class for the 2013-2014 school year.
2. Since you have been registered for this course, you have already read and signed the “Program Expectations and Agreement” which outlines Parent/Teacher/Student Relationships, Schedule Changes or Corrections, Summer & Winter Assignments, the Honor Code, and AP Exams. You are expected to uphold your end of this bargain.
3. AP English Language and Composition is a COLLEGE LEVEL READING & WRITING COURSE. To be successful, you are expected to possess above-average reading and writing skills. If reading and writing are not your strengths, or if you have not passed FCAT Reading, are at a Level 2, and/or have low scores of FCAT Writes, reconsider your placement in the course. It is NOT a remediation course.
4. **If you hate reading, this is not the course for you.**
5. **If you hate writing, this is not the course for you.**
6. You will be expected to complete assignments both in and out of the classroom. Yes, it is obvious when you try to do it at the last minute or on the bus on the way to school. You will get out of this class exactly what you put into it.
7. To be successful in this course, you must possess the following qualities:
 - Self-discipline and maturity: YOU are responsible for you.
 - Motivation: My job is not to nag you. Motivation is necessary for you to set and achieve your own goals.
 - A good work ethic: Put forth your best effort and be proud of what you do. Always work hard, even on assignments that aren’t “for a grade.” Not everything we do will be for a grade, but everything we do does have value...you need to realize this early in the year and put effort into every assignment and activity.
 - Timeliness: Pay attention to deadlines.
 - An open mind and respect of others: This course involves discussion. You need to be able to take part in a discussion where differing opinions are offered, you need to be open to new ideas, and you need to be able to work with others providing and receiving constructive feedback.

So, what exactly is the point of AP English Language and Composition?

This class will “engage students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetoric contexts, and in becoming skilled writers in a variety of purposes.” (The College Board, *AP English Course Description*, May 2007, May 2008, p. 6)

What this means is that the students will study how language works to communicate ideas. The students will read a variety of texts (essays, stories, articles, advertisements, speeches, etc.) to see how a writer puts together his/her ideas and conveys his/her message. By studying other writers’ strategies, the students will work to incorporate these same strategies and techniques in their own writings.

If you have any questions, I can be reached via email during the summer. If you are up for the challenge of AP Language, then I welcome you and look forward to our year together!

Mrs. Ingram
pingram@pasco.k12.fl.us

Expectations for AP Language Students

It is expected that everyday you will:

- Come to class ready to learn. Everyday.
- Be respectful of others, no matter what!
- Behave in a manner befitting an Advanced Placement student. Imagine you are sitting in a college classroom—the behaviors you exhibited as a freshman are definitely not appropriate.
- Complete assignments on time and with your best effort, regardless of whether or not they are for a grade. Not everything we do will count as a grade. That doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. EVERYTHING we do has value and contributes to our purpose... understanding how language functions.
- Take ownership of your learning. Your success in this class and on the AP exam in May is determined solely by you and what you are willing to do; therefore, you must be actively engaged at all times. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU.

It is expected that you will NOT:

- Have excessive absences. Much of our material involves extensive class discussion and interaction that cannot be replicated by completing a worksheet.
- Engage in disrespectful, disruptive, or off-task behavior that interferes with your or your classmates' learning.
- Play with your cellphone, iPods, etc. during class.
- Work on assignments for other classes. We will ALWAYS have plenty to do.
- Sleep in class.
- Work “collaboratively” unless specifically instructed to do so. Any student found copying another student's work with result in zeroes for BOTH parties.

Does this seem repetitive compared to the first page? It should. This is repeated in order for you to realize the importance of it!

Materials Needed Every Day:

Large binder with 6 tab dividers:

- Notes, handouts, classwork
- Essays
- SAT Vocabulary
- Tests/Quizzes
- Current events: responses
- Quotations: responses

Pouch for binder

Pack of index cards

Loose-leaf paper

Pen/pencil

Highlighters

USB/Flash Drive

5 Steps to a 5 or other study aid (by 9/5/13)

AP English Language and Composition
Summer 2013 Reading Assignment

You will need to purchase:

- *The Road from Coorain* by Jill Ker Conway
- *The Things they Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* by Alexandra Robbins
- A set of highlighters!

It is strongly suggested that you purchase copies of these books *in print* rather than electronic copies (Nook, Kindle, etc.). They can be purchased rather cheaply online or at Barnes & Noble Booksellers. If you read an electronic copy of the books, then you will need to copy the following two pages for your assignment (one copy for each book). **Note: You do not need to complete the form for your books if you are reading an in-print version. This form is ONLY for students reading e-books.**

As you read the books, ANNOTATE them in the following manner:

- ✎ Highlight in YELLOW: Words or phrases that strike you as especially descriptive, powerful, or meaningful.
- ✎ Highlight in GREEN: Words or phrases that trouble you (meaning, comprehension) enough to make you feel lost.
- ✎ Highlight in PINK/ORANGE/BLUE: Words or phrases that _____ (you choose the category! Words that you want to incorporate into your vocabulary, words that you've NEVER heard before and had to look up, words that you find funny, serious, etc.).
- ✎ Notes in margins: Your book should have a considerable number of markings throughout them. This will show that you have read actively. Notes can include questions you have, connections you make, commentary on the events, etc. You can also incorporate symbols (☺, ☹, ?, etc.). Each page should have at least one notation.
- ✎ Optional: you may also want to use sticky notes to mark memorable parts of the book for easy reference.

Bring these books with you on Thursday and Friday of the first week of school. Books will be checked on Thursday, and the test on the summer reading will be on Friday. Students will be permitted to use their books to assist them on the test.

AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment: Form for Electronic Books

Complete this ONLY if you are reading an e-book. Fill out this form completely. You will need to have a separate form for each of the three books. Bring this form with you on the Thursday and Friday of the first week of school.

Title of Book: _____

Vocabulary: Fill out the chart with words/phrases from the book. Include a good representation of the entire book (not just the first chapter or two). You MUST include page numbers! Continue this chart on the back or on another piece of paper if you need more room.

Words/phrases that strike you as especially descriptive, powerful, or meaningful:

Words/phrases that trouble you (meaning/comprehension) enough to make you feel lost:

Words/phrases that _____:

Chapter Summary/Commentary: For each chapter of the book, give a 1-2 paragraph summary of the events. Next, give a 1-2 paragraph commentary/analysis of the events. This commentary can include:

- Your interpretation of the events in the chapter
- Thoughts or reflections you have while reading
- Questions you have regarding the events
- Things that make you laugh, things that make you angry, things that make you confused...
- Predictions for what might happen next
- Detailed notes

You will be permitted to use the charts and summary/commentary to assist you with the test on Friday, so the more detailed your notes, the less you will have to remember for the test! **Electronic devices are not permitted during testing.**