

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION PRE-READING 2022-2023

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**Instructions:** Read *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut and then write an essay addressing one of the prompts listed below by January 29, 2024, the day before our first class. This novel is available in most bookstores or online. You may even find a free PDF available online as well. Read closely and annotate. There is no length requirement for the essay; I'm looking for depth of thought and critical/analytical thinking. The point of an essay is to address the prompt entirely and concisely rather than reach a specific length.

If you have any questions, email me at [kparnell@beaufort.k12.nc.us](mailto:kparnell@beaufort.k12.nc.us). I look forward to working with you all!

### ESSAY PROMPT CHOICES

**All students should use the novel *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut as the literary work of choice for whichever prompt you select.**

- Due Sunday, January 29, 2024 by 11:59 PM
  - Submit as a Google Doc via email; my email is [kparnell@beaufort.k12.nc.us](mailto:kparnell@beaufort.k12.nc.us)
1. A critic has said that one important measure of a superior work of literature is its ability to produce in the reader a healthy confusion of pleasure and disquietude. Select a literary work that produces this “healthy confusion.” Write an essay in which you explain the sources of the “pleasure and disquietude” experienced by the readers of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.
  2. Some works of literature use the element of time in a distinct way. The chronological sequence of events may be altered, or time may be suspended or accelerated. Choose a novel, an epic, or a play of recognized literary merit and show how the author’s manipulation of time contributes to the effectiveness of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
  3. Many works of literature deal with political or social issues. Choose a novel or play that focuses on a political or social issue. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the author uses literary elements to explore this issue and explain how the issue contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
  4. An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant closure has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide with or adjust to ambiguity and uncertainty. In an essay, discuss the ending of a novel or play of acknowledged literary merit. Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.