

May 18, 2015

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition. We are so happy you have decided to enroll in this course.

AP English is a challenging class for students with a special talent and interest in close reading of literature and advanced writing. Although the class requires more time and effort than a regular English class, an increased confidence in your ability to use language and a greater appreciation for literature and life are the rewards.

Over the summer you will be reading **two** novels. First, choose one novel from the ACHS Summer Reading List. We strongly suggest you choose a “classic” or a “new classic.” Read and annotate this novel. If you choose not to purchase the novel, make copious notes about the novel so you can discuss/write about it.

You will also be reading *1984* by George Orwell, which is a political satire written to warn nations about the dangers of totalitarian governments. *1984* is set in the fictitious nation of Oceania where the Party controls everything. Homes are fitted with telescreens that blast a constant stream of propaganda, as well as allow the Party to monitor behavior. Big Brother is always watching.


As you read, note Orwell’s characterization techniques, the narrative structure, the significance of the shifts within the text, significant passages of 20 lines or more, and theme development, along with your personal reactions. **Do this by making annotations in your novel.**



Your summer assignment is to write (type, MLA format) a two page essay in which you compare author’s craft between the two novels you read. You may choose to comment on choices such as voice, point-of-view, characterization, tone, theme or use of literary devices. As in all good writing, develop an engaging lead, a strong claim statement and incorporate textual evidence (quotes) to support your position. Remember to properly format author/title.

Also, you will be given a vocabulary quiz on the second day of school. It will cover 25 of the following 50 words. We chose these words because we felt they will enrich your vocabulary for AP level writing. If you know most (all) of them, great! If not, look up the definitions, make some flash cards and be prepared for a multiple choice, definition only, vocabulary quiz on day two of first semester.

Copiously	Stoic	Gratuitous	Beleaguered
Incredulous	Temerity	Irate	Bemused
Clamored	Concerted	Litany	Caustic
Feigning	Debilitate	Repugnant	Dubious
Hapless	Dour	Unconscionable	Morose

Mortifying	Culpability	Atrocious	Resonate
Prudently	Fervent	Audacious	Trepidation
Trounced	Flippant	Auspicious	Versatility
Bungling	Forlorn	Gingerly	Miscreants
Despondently	Precarious	Misogynistic	Rogue
Diabolical	Prolific	Nefarious	Apocalyptic
Pensive	Raucous	Amiable	
Surreal	Seethe	Malicious	

So..... Whew! Quite the assignment and school is not even over! Relax – you can do this! It may be a little challenging, but we have confidence in your abilities and your work ethic. If you work hard, ask questions and participate – you’ll do great. It’s almost a guarantee! Rise to the occasion!



Please keep in mind that this assignment is our *first impression* of you as a student. Please put forth 100% effort. Do not wait until the last minute to complete your assignment. It will show. If you have questions about the assignment or the class, please don’t hesitate to email either one of us. **All assignments are due on the first day of school.**

Come to class ready to discuss, challenge, question and share multiple insights about our readings. We look forward to meeting you and beginning our journey to a better understanding of literature, author’s craft and the art of writing.

P.S. Check out our weebly pages for sample papers and a variety of AP resources!

Have a great summer!

Mr. Sam Worden

ACHS English Teacher

samuel.worden@chsd117.org

Wordenenglish.weebly.com

Mrs. Kathleen Beckman

ACHS English Teacher

kathleen.beckman@chsd117.org

kathleenbeckman.weebly.com

