

Pomperaug Regional High School
Advanced Placement Language and Composition 2011-2012
Summer Reading & Commitment Form

Course Description and Expectations

The AP Language and Composition course at PHS is the equivalent of a college level writing course combined with the Region 15 American literature curriculum. The course includes nonfiction readings on culture, gender, race, sociology, education, science, humor and satire, language and identity, and writers on writing as well as representative pieces of American prose, poetry, drama, and literary critical analysis.

The choice to take this course implies a deep commitment to academics and a sincere interest in writing and literature. While there will be instruction in the conventions of writing, students are expected to have the basic skills necessary to write papers that are grammatically, structurally, and logically sound and to read texts that are challenging. Simulated AP Language tests composed of *timed* essays and *timed* multiple-choice reading sections are a major component of assessment in the course.

Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read five texts (available at the public library, bookstores or online shopping). For each text, type out three passages that you feel are worthy of closer reading and include a paragraph articulating what is worth focusing on.

During the first week of class, you will take a summer reading examination on these texts. The test will focus on reading comprehension and retention as well as passage analysis of each author's style. **Please understand that relying on *Cliff's Notes*, *Spark Notes*, information found on the internet, or film versions of the books does not demonstrate the commitment needed for the course and will not be sufficient preparation for this test.**

- *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard
- *On Writing* by Steven King

2. Collect six editorials and/or columns from newspapers and/or magazines that you feel are examples of writing worth investigating. Read and annotate them with a focus on the quality of their writing and the structure of their argument. (News articles are not acceptable.)
3. Purchase the *CliffsAP English Language and Composition 3rd Edition* guide book by Barbara V. Swovelin.

Bring the five summer reading texts complete with your typed-out passages and your six annotated editorials/columns to the first day of class in August. These pieces will be the focus of our rhetorical analysis discussion during the first weeks of class.

Please sign and return this slip to Mrs. Hartshorn or Ms. Perreault by Friday, June 17.

I understand the expectations of the AP Language and Composition course and the summer reading assignment. I accept the responsibilities of this course. I also understand that if I do poorly on my first examination, it is possible that my teacher, my parents/guardians, and I will revisit my decision to take AP Language and Composition.

Student Signature

Printed Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Name

Date