

Pomperaug High School
Advanced Placement Language and Composition 2010-2011
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, and drama.

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 bookstores or online shopping). For each text, type out three passages that you feel are worthy of closer reading.
 - *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 Stephen King

During the first week of class, you will take a summer reading examination. This test will cover all of the above works and will be the first earned grade of the first quarter. The test not only focuses on reading comprehension and retention but also requires knowledge and 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 1.) does not demonstrate the commitment needed for the course and 2.) will not be sufficient preparation for this test.

2. Collect six articles, 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.
3. Purchase the *Cliffs AP 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 articles/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 by Friday, June 18.

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