

May 21, 2019

Dear AP English Language Student,

Congratulations on your decision to take the AP English Language class at Hutchinson Central Technical High School next year! This is a college-level class that requires your commitment and hard work. You will have the opportunity to take the AP English Language exam in May of next year that could potentially earn college credit for you.

During this class next year we will cover a broad range of materials associated with the reading, analysis, and writing expected in college freshman composition classes. Through timed-writing practices, research projects, formal essays, practice AP tests, and class activities you will cultivate a mature use of effective writing and a college-level writing voice. The AP Language and Composition course assumes that you already understand and use *standard* English grammar. The intense concentration on language in this course should enhance your ability to use grammatical conventions with sophistication as well as to develop stylistic maturity in your prose.

One of the most important characteristics of students who are successful in AP Language and Composition courses is mature literacy. As students progress from high school level work to college level work, they must develop the habits of reading a wide range of materials and thinking about these materials in a critical and analytical way.

As part of our development of these habits, AP English Language students must prepare during the summer. It is impossible to overstate the importance of reading to your success in AP English Language. Therefore, I am assigning one non-fiction book, Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom, for the summer. You need to read the text before school begins in September. This will give you an advantage, because you won't have to read it during a busy time.

You can certainly purchase a copy from any bookstore or through Amazon. The benefit of selecting this option is that you can annotate the pages. Another option is to borrow the book from the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (www.buffalolib.org).

TURN OVER, MORE ON OTHER SIDE → →

As you complete the reading over the summer you must take notes on the following items. When taking notes, consider identifying the following:

1. author's message,
2. author's purpose,
3. tone,
4. intended audience,
5. any assumptions made by the author in order to support his/her claim,

6. any rhetorical devices (literary devices, techniques, elements, writing strategies) used by the author to develop their idea/message,
7. your thoughts/reactions to what the author has to say,
8. and any questions you may have about the text.

We will cover each of the above throughout the school year as a way to prepare for the AP Exam, offered in May. If you do not complete the reading or neglect to take appropriate notes on each of the 8 criteria you will be at a disadvantage and find yourself lost and confused.

Due the first week of school:

After having read the text, write a well-developed essay that establishes an evidence-based claim regarding the message the author seeks to convey to his audience. Then, using the text as evidence to support your analysis, cite at least 5 – 6 examples from the literature that develops the author’s message/purpose.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and that you recover from the rigors of your sophomore year and are ready to be a junior. Please do not limit yourself to one book this summer: read as many books as you can, fiction, or non-fiction. Students who read widely are the ones who are most likely to do well in the class and on the exam. **Bring your book with you during the first week of school and we can begin!**

If you have any questions about the assignment please email them to me, type your full name along with the course title in the subject of your email (for example: *Smith, John AP English Language*). I will check my email every few days over the summer and will reply to any question you may have as soon as I can.

Best wishes,

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