

Advanced Placement English:

AP Language and Composition

Dear AP **Language** and Composition Student:

The school's records show that you have enrolled in the Advanced Placement Language and Composition course for next school year. You realize, of course, that your work demands in AP will be greater and more time-consuming because the course is designed to be a college-level curriculum.

In order to help you prepare for the course, I have enclosed below the summer reading selections. Notice that these **six** works are **REQUIRED** summer readings, to be finished **before** the beginning of the course in September. It is strongly recommended that you take notes (in your handwriting--no typed notes will be accepted) on these works for use on the summer reading evaluations.

Summer Reading List:

<i>1984</i>	George Orwell
<i>The Fountainhead</i>	Ayn Rand
<i>Outliers</i>	Malcolm Gladwell
<i>A Room of One's Own</i>	Virginia Woolf
"Politics and the English Language"	George Orwell (essay)
"The Unknown Citizen"	W.H. Auden (poem)

Readings which will be completed during the school year (you may wish to read the core readings for the first time during the summer to get a head start):

Core Readings:

<i>The Prince</i>	Niccolo Machiavelli
<i>Silent Spring</i>	Rachel Carson
<i>Utopia</i>	Sir Thomas More
<i>No Exit</i>	Jean Paul Sartre
<i>King Lear</i> OR <i>Julius Caesar</i>	William Shakespeare

Secondary Reading (to be covered if time permits):

<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood
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Again, I strongly **recommend** that you keep **reading notes** while you are reading the summer works (and when reading all works during the school year). The notes for works of fiction should focus primarily upon setting, plot events, names of primary and secondary characters, and any other pertinent information. For non-fiction works, your notes should focus upon the arguments presented by the author and the precise factual information and examples used to enumerate those ideas.

Also, you should record in your notes any reactions and questions you have, which will be addressed during class discussion.

Remember, during the first week of class we will be administering a pre-discussion assessment on one of the works, and comprehensive, **fact-based** notes are **essential** to your success on this evaluation.

Also, **during the school year**, you will choose at least **THREE** other major works to read outside of class. I strongly suggest that you read as much as you can of the core materials before the start of the school year. Students in the past have found it helpful to buy inexpensive paperbacked copies of the summer and in-class readings, so that the copies themselves can be annotated as they are read and as we discuss the works in class.

Remember, one of the assumptions of this course is that you are reading independently; therefore, all works considered during the year will be considered as a whole, and no in-class reading time will be given. Due dates will be assigned for an entire work, and the dates will be determined irrespective of any other work that you might have.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Lainhart

Instructor of AP **Language** and Composition