

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Assignments 2009-2010

Part I:

There are three works that you should read before school starts:

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
- The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

*FYI: There will be a test that covers these three novels on one of the first days of class. Make sure that you start reading early in the summer so that you don't have any trouble getting through all three! Also, making notes as you read will make reviewing the novel MUCH easier!

Part II:

You should choose ONE of the three works and write a LITERARY ANALYSIS paper. A literary analysis paper examines some aspect of a work of literature and the effects this aspect produces. For example, you might focus on the significance of a particular setting. Make sure that you choose to write on a topic that needs explanation; don't choose something that is obvious! Think of literary analysis as solving a mystery; your job is to explain how you came to your conclusion by using evidence from the text.

- Your paper should have a clear **thesis** that makes a focused **argument**.
- Your paper should prove the importance of your thesis with clear, explicit textual evidence.
- Do not try to use a formula to write your paper (no five-paragraph essays!). Allow your paper to grow out of your chosen topic. Prove your argument in a logical progression by using strong evidence from the text.
- Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
- Give your paper a title and center it (no title page!).
- Place your name and the date at the top right side of the paper.
- Your paper should be 3 to 5 pages in length.

Part III:

Since much of our time in English Language and Composition class will be devoted to analyzing other writers' styles and techniques, you should go ahead and start searching for writers that you think are particularly strong.

- Read a wide variety of periodicals this summer and look for writers that you enjoy and appreciate (use the internet too!).
- **Journal as you read** – respond to at least 10 periodical pieces that you read. Note strengths and weaknesses of the piece. Full credit given for thoughtful, complete responses of at least half a page.
- Collect **THREE writing samples** that you feel are particularly good pieces of writing. These may be editorials, magazine articles, etc.
- Bring your 10 journal responses and 3 writing samples on the first day of class.

Emailing me over the summer with questions is just fine!

bsanderson@haywood.k12.nc.us