

May 16, 2010

Dear New AP Student,

All of you juniors out there are about to be on the ride of your life. That ride's name? AP Language and Composition. Don't worry though, you have the best of the best guiding you through it to make sure you don't crash, Mrs. Buchanan. AP Lit will be one of your worst enemies for the next 10 months but it'll also be your best friend if you plan to go far in life. This class requires nearly all of your attention and if you don't preen and care for the work on a weekly basis, or even daily for that matter, you'll end up being consumed by an idea that the work is just too much for you when in reality, it's not. Sure Mrs. B will make you read ridiculous books that are followed by dreaded papers, but if you manage your time instead of procrastinating, you'll be able to handle it without thinking to yourself that it's just too hard for you to handle.

When you first step into that door you'll think that you just entered the Garden of Eden, but in reality you just stepped into your first 9 weeks of hell. Don't be scared though, none of the work is "hard," there's just so much of it, especially if you take other AP classes, that your body will begin to send little signals to your brain telling you to get out while you still can. Your grades won't be what you expected them to be and your self-esteem may take a hit or two, but once you get a hang of managing your time you'll be invincible. After those 9 weeks pass, everything will be a breeze and you can leave the kiddie pool without any worries of drowning in the deep end.

Taking this class will open your door to so many new ideas and thoughts that you never knew existed inside your mind. You'll learn how to see things in a new light such as idea's from authors and even your peers around you and socratic circles will teach you how to be more open minded to what different people have to say. The vocabulary you'll be learning won't be hard as long as you're a walking dictionary, and if you're not then study. Do it. Studying the vocabulary will be one of the best things you can do for yourself because those grades will be a buffer for you if you're not doing so hot in another area such as socratic circles or multiple choice tests.

While you may have been one of those students who never had to do work but still managed to get A's, like yours truly, that ability has officially gone down the drain. My best advice to you? Don't procrastinate, don't not study, and don't think you'll be able to get past Mrs. B with any silly idea of how you just can't turn work in on time. None of that will work. Also, read the books she assigns. They may seem arbitrary and useless, especially with easy access to spark notes, but without reading the books you won't be able to make a decent conversation during socratic circles and your grade **DEPENDS** on you speaking during those. So take a deep breath and be prepared to understand the world that's about to unfold in front of you, because from here on out it's sink or swim, so let's just hope you prepared a few floaties along the way.

-Alyzia Brewton