

May 15, 2011

Dear New AP Student,

You have just stumbled into a class that will affect you for the rest of your life. While annotating numerous pieces of literature, you are going to be forced to read books and simultaneously configure the minute details that form a big picture in any book. You will soon find that an author does not simply write words for the fun of doing so; there is a purpose to every syntax structure, every rhetorical appeal, and every choice of words. This class will test your knowledge and spark your thinking process in a way never before. Now, before I get ahead of myself, I contain some dear advice that I hope you will grasp tightly and hold onto.

I warn you, the 1st nine weeks will be a test to your responsibility and determination in this class. For me, it was the most stressful nine weeks of school I have ever experienced in out of all my high school years. Along with many of my AP Language peers, I found myself crying while struggling to finish writing assignments. For the first few weeks, I admit, I lost all hope. I told myself I would never take an AP class again. But here I stand now, a more thorough and literate writer, a progressed speaker, a thinker and a doer. My plea to you: when times get hard (because they will), keep your friend, Faith, by your side.

I have learned that it is not how “fancy” your sentences and words may sound, but how obnoxious it can make you look when it makes no sense in context whatsoever. It is certainly not about how fancy you try to express your thoughts and ideas, but how it is being interpreted from the audience. And I beg of you, do not procrastinate. You are going to loathe the workload, but just complete it. Additionally, I have learned it is not about the length of your essays, but how long it takes you to portray your point. The most valuable lesson I inherited was the assurance that confidence is key. I have and am still learning that independency is imperative while writing, for Mrs. Buchanan was prominent in “cutting the cord”. So, do not neglect your words, and try to snag Mrs. Buchanan’s. They are YOUR thoughts; they are tenacious to your purpose as writer. Because of this class, I can say I have transformed into an art finder, a hidden meaning detective, and I have adapted to an altered outlook on life –an elevated outlook. You will soon discover this similarly.

To ultimately gain success in this class, you will benefit greatly if you adhere to these tips in any desperate times of need: Firstly, do not make the mistake of waiting until the night before to complete any given assignment, no matter what. Secondly, do not be afraid to speak your mind, for Mrs. Buchanan and your classmates will learn from you. Thirdly, do whatever it takes to make Mrs. Buchanan proud and happy (this is easily completed by simply adhering to her requests). Fourthly, be sure to save your work in various places: jump drive, computer, anywhere. You would be surprised how easily you can lose something or simply forget it in times of need. Fifthly, grow close to your classmates. They will be your family; you will all be united through Mrs. Buchanan’s pain she will inflict upon you. Sixthly, never EVER give up. You will survive. I promise.

Sincerely,

Ashley Geary