

May 16, 2011

Dear New AP Student,

AP Language is like no other course that you have taken before. It will test your ability as a writer and show you how to become a literary critic. Just about every week there is a Socratic circle or an annotated paper due. In most literature classes you just read books and write a report on it afterwards, this class is mainly about discussions and personal interpretations.

During the entire first nine weeks of the course I struggled though passing the course. Even though Mrs. Buchanan constantly reminded her students that the class will gradually become easier over time, I did not believe her. I was not accustomed to putting forth so much effort in any of my other literature classes so the first nine weeks was a huge transition from my previous methods. It some point I was so overwhelmed that I even contemplated dropping the class.

Looking back now, I am so thankful that I stayed in the class and learned all that Mrs. Buchanan could teach me. Not only did she teach me about language and writing, but she also showed me one of life's most important lessons. She showed me that hard work will always yield rewards. Because of all the hard work and effort I put into the class my skills in writing have greatly improved, and I now feel that I am prepared for college courses. The very moment that I realized this was true was after presenting my debate that I had spent over five hours preparing for, and Mrs. Buchanan said "This is the John Russell I've been waiting to see all year."

There are many essential that are necessary to become successful in AP language. First, turn in all assignments on time. If you fall behind in this class it is incredibly difficult catch up, especially because you have five other classes to deal with as well. Second, read all of the books that you are assigned. While it may seem like a good substitute, Sparknotes does not give you all of the necessary information that you are required to learn by reading the book. Finally, always listen to what Mrs. Buchanan has to say. This is the most important piece of advice that I can give, as she has never taken me in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,

John Russell HintzeAp