

May 15, 2011

Dear New AP Student,

If someone would have asked me if I was taking 11 AP Lit last year, I would have told them they were crazy, and that I was going to take an easy Language class. Now, having taken the class writing this letter for me is a sad thing. I don't want to let go of the class and teacher I have grown so close to over the past year, but I feel ready to take on any English class that comes my way. I can even say I'm glad Mrs. Patrick talked me into it, and I don't regret my decision at all. Eleventh grade Advanced Placement Language is the most beneficial class you will ever take in high school and that is a promise. Whether you're writing, reading, or speaking, you're constantly learning things about yourself and your classmates. It gets pretty hard at times if you don't learn to balance out your time well, but I've never had more fun in a class. Mrs. B is pretty much the craziest teacher you will ever have, and challenges you in every way possible. She loves her Socratic Circles which you will be doing a lot of and annotating every single thing you read. Oh, and I can't forget about the debates or in class essays which did suck right up until you got your grade back, and you watch as every week an essay you thought you thought you did horrible on turned out to be one of the best things you've ever written.

During the 1st nine weeks you do a lot of reading and writing and getting to know your classmates in Socratic Circles. I think that's the time that you realize you can no longer slack off in class. It seems like school will never end during those few weeks, and I'm sure many of you will think about dropping the class, but don't be fooled. Mrs. Buchanan is simply making you work a little before she shows you how much fun the class is.

Looking back throughout the year I've seen so many changes in myself. I learned how to write an essay in forty-five minutes and give a debate in front of the entire class without being a single bit nervous. I learned that people in your class might not be like the people you thought they were, and most importantly I learned from Mrs. Buchanan that anything can be fun as long as you make it that way. I can't say I didn't give Mrs. Buchanan a hard time every once in a while. Sometimes it was just easier to whine about the assignments rather than actually do them, but during the 3rd nine weeks, you do this thing called Buchmaster which you will come to love and adore, and writing something to say or having a job for the meeting will no longer feel like a boring task. It's during these classes that you learn about the people around you, and you get to have fun speaking in front of others without being nervous. Having people feel comfortable enough in front of you to tell you personal things makes you more confident in yourself.

To be successful in this class is easy. Don't whine, just listen and do your work. Don't be afraid to try new things in your writing or add your own opinion in Socratic Circles. Listen to Mrs. Buchanan when she talks to you because most likely she is telling you something you need to know. Balance your time out well, and most importantly let yourself have fun and take advantage of the precious time you have in that class. It may seem scary for you now, but when it's all over... you'll wish you had more time to spend with the people and teacher you grew so close to.

Sincerely,

Tracy Edwards