

May 15, 2011

Dear New AP Student,

AP language is an exploration. AP language is an exploration of rhetoric and appeals, of devices and strategies, of the minds of the literary masters, both the sane and otherwise, of syntax, and of your classmates. Most importantly AP language is the exploration of yourself; as a writer and as a person. You will find a little bit of yourself in everything you read, and throughout the year you will find maturity and growth. AP language is a part of you.

The first nine-weeks really aren't that bad. Lots of people complain about them and how bad they are, and then they drop the class. Do not let that be you. Do your summer assignments (even that really annoying one that is due in the MIDDLE of summer) and listen to Mrs. Buchanan. She will give you all the advice and tools needed to make an A the first nine weeks, and after all it's not the end of the world if you do not make the A. Grades are irrelevant, AP language is about life.

The most valuable lessons learned in AP language really don't have anything to do with school. The most important lessons I learned were things like:

- Always speak your mind; whatever that may mean.
- Cut the bull and say what you mean. Don't try to fluff it or lighten it up.
- Do not hold yourself to the restraints of others or society. Break down walls.
- Do not censor your words. Words are weapons, use them wisely not weakly.

The two most important things to remember for AP language are to listen and remain diligent. Listen to everything and take from it what is useful. Listen to the writers you will study, listen to your friends and classmate, and most importantly listen to Mrs. Buchanan and yourself. Diligence is also needed for success. There will be times when you will feel like you just cannot go on any longer, especially when it comes to annotating (it really sucks, but it is worth it), when those times arise you must remain diligent. You must persevere, and you must, always do the work. When you fall behind it will be crazy-hard to catch up.

Sincerely,

Chance Turner