

**AP Language and Composition/American Literature
Grovetown High School**

Pre-Summer Assignment: Before Thursday, May 19th, compose a letter of introduction to your soon-to-be AP Language teacher using the appropriate business letter format. This letter should discuss your strengths, weaknesses, concerns, and thoughts about the course so far. This is your first opportunity to give me a sneak peek at you as a student. If we know one another, let's pretend like we've never met – even if you sit in the front of my class currently. This is a new day, a new stage in the game and first impressions are key. If you are not enrolled at GTHS before the end of the 2010-2011 school year, then email your letter to me as soon as you can. For current students, this letter needs to be handed to me personally before the 19th. Please limit yourself to one page.

Summer Reading Assignment

1. Compose an argument/persuasive paper that synthesizes at least 3 credible sources as evidence for your position. Choose one of the topics below to respond to.
 - a. Is the American Dream accessible to everyone?
 - b. Which takes priority: Individual or Community?
2. Requirements for essay
 - a. use MLA formatting and citing – an MLA guide is linked on the “Research & Formatting” tab
 - b. your sources must be credible; one must come from GALILEO – password is ‘kneel’
 - c. word count: maximum of 1,000 words
 - d. must be submitted to Turnitin.com (class id: 4000341, password: grassisgreen – DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT; ENROLL AS A STUDENT IN THE CLASS)
 - e. Completed paper & Turnitin originality report is due on Wednesday, August 10th
3. Read *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. Get your own copy of the book so that you can highlight important passages and annotate in the margins. To be more economical, consider buying a used copy.
4. Respond to the Socratic Circle questions linked online.
 - a. Consult the Socratic Circle Preparation Guide in this handout for more detailed instructions.
 - b. This is due on Monday, August 8th.
5. Read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Get your own copy of the book so that you can highlight important passages and annotate in the margins. To be more economical, consider buying a used copy.
6. Respond to the Socratic Circle questions linked online.
 - a. Consult the Socratic Circle Preparation Guide in this handout for more detailed instructions.
 - b. This is due on Monday, August 22nd.

How will my Socratic Circle responses be graded?

1. Consult the Socratic Circle Preparation Guide in this handout.

HELP! What if I don't understand what to do?

You have several options.

1. If you don't understand a word, phrase, or concept, try googling it. Google is your friend.

2. Ask a fellow AP student.
3. Email me as a last resort only because I want you to learn to rely on the resources that will be available to you when you go off to college, and although I loved attending college, I am not going back... even for you. ☺

How else can I prepare for AP?

1. Review the All-Star 10th grade vocabulary list linked on the class webpage. These are some good words, and I expect you to know them and use them.
2. Visit the AP Central website offered through College Board. Click on the “college board tests” link to access SAT, ACT, and AP information (<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student>)
3. Read the letters written by former AP students (linked on the 11AP website). They offer anecdotal evidence as to what it takes to be successful in AP.
4. Have a good attitude. Challenge is essential for change, and sometimes that will bring about frustration, anxiety, and despair. You WILL get through it... and feel a well-earned sense of accomplishment as a result.
5. Know my core beliefs:
 - a. I believe in tough love.
 - b. I believe in honest assessment.
 - c. I believe in the value of time.
 - d. I believe in respect towards self and others.
 - e. I believe in you.

My task is to make you believe it too... I can't wait for next year. ☺

My summer contact information:

- School email address: kim.buchanan@ccboe.net
- Class webpage: <http://www.gthsenglish.net>
- AP Facebook Page: If you have Facebook, I will send out a friend request soon. This is only to be used to post questions and links that are applicable to class assignments and discussions. Any misuse will result in disciplinary action.

Due date recap

1. Position Paper – Wednesday, August 10th
2. Socratic Circle (*Catcher in the Rye*) – Monday, August 8th
3. Socratic Circle (*Their Eyes Were Watching God*) – Monday, August 22nd