

# AP Language and Composition

Summer Work 2014

**Directions:** All of the following assignments **MUST** be completed and submitted according to the directions provided below. These assignments are due on the **FIRST** day of school. Failure to do so will result in your dismissal from AP Language and Composition.

**Writing Assignment:** Please write a letter of introduction that shows me the “you” everybody knows and the “you” nobody knows (except you). Make the letter extremely informative and do not edit out thoughts and ideas. Do not be modest or shy. These letters help to prepare you for the college entrance essay; they help me with your recommendations for college, honors programs, scholarships, awards and honors. When I write recommendations, I like to personalize them and talk about your specific talents, passions, interests, etc. Please use a computer to write the letter. The letter is due the first day of school and will count as your first major grade. I suggest you write the letter over several days and weeks as it will be lengthy and involved. I have listed below categories you **must** cover but you can include others:

- family
- priorities
- interests and hobbies
- achievements and honors
- strengths and weaknesses
- personal values
- responsibilities both in and out of school
- work experience (both volunteer and paid)
- things of which you are proud
- concerns you have for yourself and the world
- academic and/or extracurricular experience that influenced you
- activities in/out of school (athletic, church, young groups, drama, community, political, scientific, technical, medical, etc)
- hopes and plans for college
- hopes and plans after college
- fears and worries
- best atmosphere for writing
- description of your learning style
- At this time, what do you feel will be the most important choice you will have to make in life?
- In what areas do you hope your writing improves this year?
- If you were writing a letter of recommendation about yourself, write one paragraph you might include that would give information not found on a transcript or resume.
- Anything else you want me to know about you

**\*\* THIS IS NOT A 5 PARAGRAPH ESSAY!** Organize the letter however you choose!! In order to receive full credit, you must thoughtfully address EVERY topic above. Most letters are 3-5 pages.

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**Reading Assignments:** You must read both of the following texts (approved by the College Board) and complete the assignments listed below the titles. You may either borrow these titles from the library or order them for yourself. I always recommend ordering your own copies so that you can take notes in the margins. If you would like to order your own copy for any of the books this year, you might want to check [www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com) or [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Please email if you have specific reasons for not being able to read the following texts and alternative texts MAY be assigned.

### **Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt**

**\*\*In addition to your reading notes (which may be written or highlighted in your book), take notes on the following topics on a separate sheet of paper. These notes must be thorough, but do not need to be written in paragraph form.**

- 1) Relevant aspects of the author's life before and after the memoir was published that might have contributed to his decision to share his story. *Research necessary—these should **not** be details that were included in the memoir itself!!!!*
- 2) Relevant social issues of the time period in which the story takes place. These should be historically based—NOT personal experiences of the author. *Research necessary!!!!*  
**\*\* 1 and 2 require online research. Make sure to cite your source(s) in proper MLA format!**
- 3) THREE events/people that had the greatest impact on McCourt and an explanation of how each changed him or impacted his development
- 4) TWO themes expressed within the text—support with specific examples and quotations from the text.  
*Remember—a theme is a SENTENCE that expresses a truth about human nature!!!*

\*\*\*Use specific quotes from the text/research to support your ideas and include page numbers when appropriate.

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### **Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

**\*\*In addition to your reading notes (which may be written or highlighted in your book), take notes on the following topics on a separate sheet of paper. These notes must be thorough, but do not need to be written in paragraph form.**

- 1) Relevant aspects of the author's life that might have contributed to his decision to write the novel.  
*Research necessary!!!!*
- 2) Relevant social issues of the time period in which the story takes place. *Research necessary!!!*  
**\*\*1 and 2, require online research. Make sure to cite your source(s) in proper MLA format!**
- 3) Define allegory. Discuss the allegorical message of *Lord of the Flies* making sure to identify the symbolism of at least five characters/objects as part of your analysis.

\*\*\*Use specific quotes from the text/research to support your ideas and include page numbers when appropriate.

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In preparation for your studies in AP Language and Composition, you will need to further develop your close reading skills along with your ability to define and defend original arguments. Therefore, *Sparknotes and online resources should NOT be used for the above (or any) assignments unless outside resources are specified as a requirement.*

The following texts will be studied during the 2014-2015 school year. You might want to pre-order them, though this list is subject to change (These are NOT the only titles we will be reading).

*Walden* (Thoreau)  
*The Bell Jar* (Plath)  
*Passing* (Larsen)  
*The Scarlet Letter* (Hawthorne)  
*The Prince* (Machiavelli)

Please feel free to email me over the summer if you have any questions. **All summer work is due the first day of school.** The letter will be submitted to me and should be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman font, SINGLE SPACED (to preserve paper), with your name, date, and hour in the upper left hand corner. Notes on the novels must be typed and will be checked on the first day of school. A formal assessment will be given over the summer reading during the first week of school.

Have a great summer and I look forward to working with you in the fall!

Ms. Bronski ☺

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