

Advanced Placement English

2005/2006

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. Although often demanding, AP offers many rewards. You need to be prepared to work hard, to be challenged, and to have fun.

You will need:

3-ring binder (LARGE) with several dividers
Lined paper
Pocket-style folders
Writing utensils
Computer disks

You will be doing journal writing, taking notes, keeping track of handouts, doing an abundance of “close” reading and analysis, and writing papers of several types.

You should already have your journals from your summer reading. You will be submitting the journals entries for a grade – then **KEEP** them. I learned at an AP workshop that students should not go into the AP exam/college without two good novels and two Shakespearean plays they know intimately well. I know from experience that one forgets important details and information from one’s reading; consequently, I will have the journal as part of many requirements. You will have these notes to refresh your memory before an exam or perhaps even to include in future papers that you write.

The journals are primarily intended to be a resource for you; however, I will be looking for “signs of intelligent life” as I evaluate them. That means that you need to be “engaged” with the reading. I will not expect journals to be error-free pieces of writing, but I do expect them to be neat, complete, and legible. In addition, I expect that you pay reasonable attention to the conventions of spelling, punctuation, and standard English usage. (More on journals on next page)

And, . . . Don’t panic even though much of what you heard about Advanced Placement is true. Yes, it’s tough! Yes, you’ll read and write more than you have in previous English classes. Yes, it’s a college level class with college level expectation. Yes, it will prepare you well for college. Yes, it’s entirely possible to earn an A. Plus, you’ll possess a solid sense of achievement when you finish!

Earn College Credit with AP English

You may earn three credits of freshman English at Dakota Wesleyan for approximately \$25 a credit hour IF you pass two semesters of AP English with at least a B average. It is offered at a terrific bargain for three credits on a college transcript. More information, including the exact cost, will be forthcoming. This class will also prepare you to take the National Advanced Placement English Literature exam, if you so choose, which exempts you from freshman English at more than 1200 colleges and universities.

Help is Available

As most of you know, I am at school early and leave late. If you need help – ASK! My home phone number is 996-4161. My school email address is deb.Everson@k12.sd.us or hotmail address ebby1001@hotmail.com. My website with homework assignments and literature links is <http://de027.k12.sd.us/>

Plan to keep a 3-ring binder for this class. (You may want a binder for each semester!) You will need dividers to separate sections. Sections may be revised as the year progresses.

1. Journal Response Log:

Date the entry. State the title and author of the selection.

There are two standard AP questions about every piece of writing: **What** is the author trying to accomplish (questions of purpose, theme, audience) and **how** is the author accomplishing it (questions of structure, rhetoric, voice, literary devices, etc.)

Respond to the reading assignments here. (This does not include the novel for your book report. You will be keeping a separate journal for this.) These responses must include brief summaries of the selections, but, most importantly, include YOUR reaction/responses to it/questions about it/ connections with other works and ideas.

- Concise/precise summary, time line of events if relevant
- Does it remind you of something else you've seen, read, heard, or experienced?
- Are there lines of passages that stand out? If so, quote them and explain why **you** find them significant.
- Write about lines or portions you do not understand or disagree with. Leave some space for you to add information about the selection and new insights you have gained through further reading and discussion and also for my comments. IF the poem is short, COPY it and write notes and comments beside it. You may find it helpful to photocopy passages and make notes on the text itself for some selections.

2. Notes and Handouts:

You need to keep handouts and you'll need a space to record information presented in class and in assigned informational reading. Include historical context notes, biographical information about the authors, literary genre, and notes on videos, etc.

3. Vocabulary:

Rather than using a vocabulary workbook, you are to select five words minimum each week or reading. (I will let you know) These should be words that are unfamiliar to you but that are not necessarily obscure historical terms. For each word, provide the following:

- Write the sentence (or phrase if the sentence is long) in which the word appears. Identify the title, author, and line (if poem or play) or page number of the sentence or phrase.
- Underline the word
- Write the definition of the word using your own words, not merely something copied from a dictionary. If you include more than one definition, highlight or mark with asterisk the definition that fits the context.
- Use the word in an original sentence.
- (Optional) Create an actual or verbal picture showing the word "at work."

4. Literary Terms Vocabulary

You will be given important literary terms and techniques as part of the curriculum in order to assist in evaluation of pieces of literature. We will discuss these definitions and apply them to our readings in class. You will be held accountable and tested on these literary definitions and techniques in an application process.

5. Journals for quarter novel or play (Exact novel journal assignments will be delineated)

One AP reading list novel or play per quarter. Your first quarter's reading will be George Orwell's *1984*.

Your notebook should be valuable to you as a place to store information and to explore your thinking on the reading. This notebook will be a significant portion of your grade. Take it more seriously than you have ever taken an English notebook before.