

AP Literature and Composition

Summer Assignment, 2018

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Welcome to AP Literature and Composition,

The Assignment:

Part 1: Carefully read the introduction and chapters 5, 12 and 25 of [How to Read Literature Like a Professor](#).

We will continue our study of the text in class, but these specific chapters will help you as you craft your response to your summer read.

Part 2: Choose a book: I have attached a reading list taken from previous AP Lit and Comp exams. Your assignment for this summer is to read **one** (two if you want to begin to build your AP Lit toolbox!) of these works. You have several titles and authors to choose from, some of which may be unfamiliar to you. The books on this list are probably not the type of books you would typically choose for some light, vacation reading. However, they serve a few important purposes: They are a sampling of the types of texts we'll be reading, discussing, and writing about in our AP Literature class. They provide you with enough depth and complexity to get you thinking about key themes and the elements used to express them. They begin/add to your literary toolbox which you'll need to pull from when you take the AP exam next spring.

Take notes: In order to get the most out of your reading (and make your fall assignments more manageable), make sure you're an active reader. As you read, take notes over **character/character development, conflict, theme, rhetorical devices/word choice, setting, and form/structure**. I would recommend setting up a page for each category in a notebook or journal. Pose questions and do your best to answer them. Remember to jot down page numbers so it is easy to find the passages you want. These notes should be ample proof that you have carefully read the work. **Do not just summarize the plot!**

Write a final response:

Compose an essay in which you analyze how the author develops a particular theme by citing evidence of setting and symbolism.

Must include:

- An introduction with a specific and complex thesis statement
- Logically organized body paragraphs with transition words
- A meaningful conclusion highlighting the relevance of the work
- Evidence of literary technique, quoted in MLA format, to support your claim
- Use chapters **5, 12 and 25** of *How to Read...* to guide your interpretation
- Be prepared to compose an in class timed essay on the novel the first week of school

Your notes and response **will be due the first day of class**—make sure to bring them with you!
A structured writing assignment will follow on the second class meeting.

Other Important Information:

- The reading selections for AP Literature will be provided in digital format. If you wish to have a print copy, you should either plan to purchase one or utilize your favorite library.
- You should review the terms from the link below. We want to have a common language when we discuss literature!
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<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1roevce0ZiIC6QSw137ss4cuuQtROzQPJl3-M-izkG30/edit#gid=0>

Read One

(Two, if you are a true student of literature!)

The Invisible Man
Wuthering Heights
Crime and Punishment
Great Expectations
Moby Dick
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
The Scarlet Letter
Their Eyes Were Watching God
As I Lay Dying
Ceremony
Beloved
Othello
A Streetcar Named Desire
No Country for Old Men
The Color Purple
Jude the Obscure
Moll Flanders
Major Barbara
Pride and Prejudice
For Whom the Bell Tolls
The Grapes of Wrath
The Piano Lesson
The Poisonwood Bible
The Handmaid's Tale
The Things They Carried (novel)
The Beet Queen
Purple Hibiscus
Wise Blood

Ralph Ellison
Emily Bronte
Fyodor Dostoevsky
Charles Dickens
Herman Melville
James Joyce
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Zora Neale Hurston
William Faulkner
Leslie Marmon Silko
Toni Morrison
Shakespeare
Tennessee Williams
Cormac McCarthy
Alice Walker
Thomas Hardy
Daniel Defoe
George Bernard Shaw
Jane Austen
Ernest Hemingway
John Steinbeck
August Wilson
Barbara Kingsolver
Margaret Atwood
Tim O'Brien
Louise Erdrich
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Flannery O'Connor

Please be aware that some of these titles contain adult content (language and situations).

Please read with a mature and open mind.

Part 3:

In preparation for the college essays you will be writing, you will choose **TWO** of the following prompts to which you will respond. The word limit for each is 650 words. You will type these in 12-point font, double-spaced.

Create these essays in Google docs. You will submit them on the first day of class.

2018-2019 Common Application Essay Prompt Choices

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself to others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design. You will need to do a considerable amount of introspection to complete these essays. This is meant to be personal and should reveal your intellect, desire, and character. This is an application in which you should NOT TELL a story; rather, you should SHOW who you are through your personal experiences. YOU MUST SHOW WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF!

Hints/Helps for Responding to the College Application Essay Prompts

A great application essay will present a vivid personal and compelling view of you to your teacher and/or a college admission board.

Narrow your topic and keep your focus on one great idea. Admissions officers read hundreds of essays each day, and they have many submissions on the same few topics. Try to make yours unique.

Avoid writing about the 4 "D's": death, divorce, drugs, and depression. Don't think that you must have had a tragedy or trauma in your life to have a good essay topic. You can write about common happenings such as riding a bicycle or failing a test; the magic comes in how you approach the topic.

Make sure the real you comes out in your essay. VOICE is the most important: your personal voice must be communicated through your writing style. After you have finished, ask

yourself if anyone else could have written the essay. If the answer is “yes,” it is not personal and individual enough for an admissions essay.

Avoid using passive verbs like “is/was” or “are/were,” and replace them with active verbs that show action and emotion. You obviously must write in first person about one of your favorite subjects: YOURSELF! Although you should write in first person, avoid overusing personal pronouns like “I” and “my,” etc. Although the structure is truly up to you, do make sure your reader can follow with a clear beginning, middle, and end.