

June, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

In September students will be entering an English class at the advanced placement level. Below you will find the course's purpose:

The AP English Language and Composition course (taken during the junior year) is designed to give students multiple opportunities to work with the rhetorical situation, examining the authors' purposes as well as the audiences and the subjects in texts. Students write in a variety of modes for a variety of audiences, developing a sense of personal style and the ability to analyze and articulate how the resources of language operate in any given text. We also study the rhetoric of visual media such as photographs, films, advertisements, comic strips, and music. The purpose of this course is to help students "write effectively and confidently in their college courses across the curriculum and in their professional and personal lives" (The College Board, AP English Course Description, May 2007, May 2008, p6).

Students will obtain the skills necessary to complete the Advanced Placement Language and Composition Exam at the end of the course.

Over the summer months students are asked to complete the following assignments in order to be better prepared for the first marking period:

1. Students should read Nevil Shute's On the Beach and Richard Wright's Native Son for the first full day of school. During the first week of school, students will be writing essays based on both novels and should be fully prepared for these assignments. Note-taking is recommended for better preparedness.
2. Students should locate and read a series of intellectual materials \* (ex. articles from newspapers or magazines) on one focus (ex. gender or the environment). Bring five to six articles to school on the first full day and be prepared to discuss and use them for a writing assignment.
3. Students should locate two advertisements\* (from magazines or newspapers) and bring them to school on the first full day.

\* All materials chosen must contain school-appropriate content.

Good luck and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rolon  
Instructor of English

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Supervisor of Instruction