

**Pomperaug Regional High School**  
**Advanced Placement Language and Composition 2014-2015**  
**Summer Reading & Commitment Form**

**Course Description and Expectations**

The AP Language and Composition course at PHS is the equivalent of a college level writing course combined with the Region 15 American literature curriculum. The course includes nonfiction readings on culture, gender, race, sociology, education, science, humor and satire, language and identity, and writers on writing as well as representative works of American prose, poetry, drama, and literary critical analysis.

The choice to take this course implies a deep commitment to academics, a sincere interest in writing and reading, and solid time management and long term planning. While there will be instruction in the conventions of writing, students are expected to have the basic skills necessary to write papers that are grammatically, structurally, and logically sound, and to read texts that are complex and challenging. Simulated AP Language tests composed of *timed* essays and *timed* multiple-choice reading sections are a major component of assessment in the course.

**Summer Reading Assignment**

1. Obtain a personal copy of each of the five texts below (available at the public library, bookstores, and online shopping).
  - *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White (Fourth Edition)
  - *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
  - *An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard
  - *On Writing* by Steven King
  - *Writers on Writing*, collected essays from *The New York Times*
2. As you read each of the first four texts, keep a list of concepts that bubble up from your reading. Pick one of those concepts and find a passage (plus page number) from each text that speaks to your chosen concept. Pick a second concept and repeat your passage selection process. Then type up your two sets of chosen passages (plus page number) for each concept.
3. Choose two essays from the fifth text, *Writers on Writing*. Read and annotate each essay with a focus on the style moves of the writing and the structure of the argument.

During the first week of class, you will take a summer reading test on these texts. The test will focus on reading comprehension and retention of significant details as well as passage analysis of each author's style. **Please understand that relying on *Spark Notes*, *Bookrags*, or any other information found on the internet does not demonstrate the commitment needed for the course and will not be sufficient preparation for this test.**

3. Purchase the *CliffsAP English Language and Composition 4th Edition* guide book by Barbara V. Swovelin.

***Bring the five summer reading texts complete with your typed-out passages to the first day of class in August. These pieces will be the focus of our rhetorical analysis discussion during the first weeks of class and will provide lenses for our readings throughout the year.***

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**Please sign and return this slip to Ms. Hartshorn or Ms. Perreault by Monday, June 9.**

I understand and agree to meet the requirements for the summer reading assignment as well as the expectations of the AP Language and Composition course. I also understand that if I do poorly on the summer reading assignment and/or test, it is possible that my teacher, my parents/guardians, and I will revisit my decision to take AP Language and Composition.

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Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Printed Name

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Date