

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Assignment 2017

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To the student:

Although the summer allows all of us some rest, students taking Advanced Placement courses need to continue to use their reading and writing skills and to lay some foundation for the course ahead. Advanced Placement English Language and Composition focuses on both kinds of skills through the study of *effective uses of language* and through instruction and practice in *composition*. The summer assignment addresses both areas as well. By completing the following three assignments, you will keep your skills sharp and prepare for the year's study.

The assignments listed below are due on the first day of class.

If you have any questions or need clarification, you can email us at jmermod@aacps.org or eoakes@aacps.org. (We each plan to be away some during the summer, so have patience if you do not receive an answer immediately.)

We look forward to working with each of you. Have a great summer!

Assignment One: Reading

Read the play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. Books are available from the school or the play can be purchased in all major bookstores or borrowed from the public library.

Write answers to the following question. Your answer should be in paragraph form, but need to be only long enough to answer parts a-c of the question thoroughly. If possible, please type your paragraph.

The title of the play is an allusion to Greek mythology. To help you understand this reference, answer the following:

- a. Define allusion.
- b. Briefly summarize the story of *Pygmalion* from *Greek mythology*.
- c. Answer the following questions: Is this allusion an appropriate title for the play? Why or why not?

Assignment Two: Composition

Prewriting

Think about the following: man is the only creature with a highly developed language. How does this fact affect human life? What does it allow us to do or to do more effectively than we could do without language?

As part of your prewriting, brainstorm as many answers to these questions as you can. Think deeply; try to go beyond the obvious that language allows man to communicate with others. Think about how man uses language *to influence others* or when the use of language has had a *major impact on history* or on the *development of technology*. Enrich your thinking by sharing ideas with others – other students in the class, your friends, your family. Observe how language is used in your life.

When you have lots of ideas, then write the essay.

Assignment

Write an essay explaining three ways that man's ability to use a spoken and written language affects human life. Use details and examples from life, literature, and/or history to develop and support your thesis. *Pygmalion* may be one example, but should not – by any means – be your only example.

This essay should reflect serious thinking and your best writing ability. (Do not just scribble something the night before school starts.) Remember that essays are generally several paragraphs and usually run toward 500 words. (Most word processing programs have a tool that will give you a word count, but don't obsess about the number of words. A well-written essay of 450 words will get a better grade than a rambling essay of 550 words.)

Format

- Essays should be typed if possible, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point regular font such as Times New Roman.
- If hand-writing, use blue or black ink, skip lines, write on the front of the paper only.
- Each essay should have a title.
- Student name should appear in the upper right corner of each page of the essay.

Assignment Three: Rhetorical Terms

In looking at how an author composes an argument, we will be analyzing his or her rhetoric. You will create 10 mini posters using 10 of the following rhetorical terms. Five will be those highlighted on your list. The other five are student choice. For each poster, include the following:

- Size 8.5 x 11
- Title – Name of Term
- Definition of Term (try <http://literary-devices.com/> or <http://literarydevices.net/>)
- Example from literature, history, or cut from a magazine
- Your own example
- Visual to help you and your classmates remember the term

Alliteration
Allegory
Allusion
Ambiguity
Analogy
Anaphora
Anecdote
Antithesis
Aphorism

Asyndeton
Chiasmus
Deductive Reasoning
Diction
Enumeration
Epistrophe
Epizeuxis
Ethos
Euphemism

Hyperbole
Inductive Reasoning
Invective
Irony
Juxtaposition
Litotes
Logos
Metaphor
Metonymy

Oxymoron
Paradox
Parallelism
Parody
Pathos
Personification
Polysyndeton
Repetition
Rhetoric

Rhetorical Question
Sarcasm
Satire
Simile
Syllogism
Synecdoche
Syntax
Tricolon
Understatement
Zeugma