

June 11, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

Enclosed please find the summer assignment for students enrolled in 12th grade AP English at Temima High School for the 2018-19 school year. This assignment is designed both to engage students' minds through reading and writing and to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

The required summer reading books are *Persuasion* by Jane Austen and a choice of one book from the list provided. Students must read the books and complete the reading assignments listed on the following pages before the start of the school year. Students should also have a copy of *Persuasion* to use for classroom study.

In addition, a packet that includes information about the AP English program is also included with this assignment. Students should read over this information, which will acquaint them with the goals and benefits of the AP English program; complete the multiple choice practice test; and review the answers to this practice test to assess their strengths and weaknesses in answering multiple choice questions.

If you have any questions or concerns before the start of the fall semester, you may leave a message for me at the school or contact me by email at mschafstall@temima.org. Students may also email me with any specific questions about the summer assignments.

Sincerely,

Melissa Schafstall
Language Arts Teacher
Temima High School for Girls

AP English

Part 1: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The first day of class after orientation week. In addition to the assignment listed below, you will probably be given some kind of in-class writing assessment on this date.

Persuasion by Jane Austen

Part 1 - Annotation Assignment:

As you read the novel, you should annotate – write notes/highlight in your book or use post-it notes if you prefer not to write in your book. You should annotate based on what you notice during your reading of the novel. Just as you have done in the past, look for how the author does each of the following: 1) develops characters, 2) describes settings, 3) uses literary devices (motif, figurative language, etc.), 4) develops themes, and 5) anything else you find interesting/worth discussing. **I expect your books to be heavily annotated.** You may write in your book, use sticky notes, or use regular paper (handwrite or type).

Due to the nature of this assignment, you may use abbreviations to a reasonable degree. This would include using “&” for “and” and other widely accepted abbreviations, such as “w/” for “with” and “b/c” for “because.” Do not use numbers to represent words, such as “2” for “to” or “4” for “for.”

Note: Under no circumstances will I accept for credit a book that has comments/annotations written by another student, friend, relative, etc. You must use a clean copy of the book, and you will receive a grade for your book annotations.

Part 2 - Written Assignment:

Complete the following sections (in this order):

I. Discussion/Essay Questions: Write three questions that a teacher might ask you about the novel either in class or for an essay. These questions should be thought-provoking and almost always take more than one line to type because they ask readers to combine more than one idea. Just *writing* these types of questions helps you to anticipate what questions might be asked of you in class discussion or on a test and encourages you to think more insightfully about the book or play.

II. Key Passage: Choose the most important passage in the novel (in your opinion). Type it up word-for-word in the approach paper. Make sure to identify the speakers (if dialogue) and list the page number.

III. Key Passage Explanation: In a fully-developed paragraph, explain why your chosen passage is important to understanding the novel. Discuss any mentioned or inferred themes connected to the key passage.

IV. Essay (2-3 typed pages): In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. For *Persuasion*, discuss how Anne Elliot must contend with some aspect of the past, either personal or societal. Then write an essay in which you show how Anne’s relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work.

You can email me with any questions at mschafstall@temima.org

Happy reading! I look forward to discussing this book with you in the fall.

AP English

Part 2: Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: The second week of classes – but I strongly suggest that you at least have the book read before school starts as I will begin assigning homework the first week of school, including writing assignments.

Choose one of the following:

The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
A Passage to India by E.M. Forster

Written Assignment:

Complete the following sections (in this order):

I. Discussion/Essay Questions: Write three questions that a teacher might ask you about the novel either in class or for an essay. These questions should be thought-provoking and almost always take more than one line to type because they ask readers to combine more than one idea. Just *writing* these types of questions helps you to anticipate what questions might be asked of you in class discussion or on a test and encourages you to think more insightfully about the book or play.

II. Key Passage: Choose the most important passage in the novel (in your opinion). Type it up word-for-word in the approach paper. Make sure to identify the speakers (if dialogue) and list the page number.

III. Key Passage Explanation: In a fully-developed paragraph, explain why your chosen passage is important to understanding the novel. Discuss any mentioned or inferred themes connected to the key passage.

IV. Essay (2-3 typed pages): Critic Roland Barthes has said “Literature is the question minus the answer.” Considering Barthes’ observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question raised in the novel and the extent to which it offers any answers. Explain how the author’s treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid plot summary.

For both assignments:

All work should be your own. Evidence that any part of this assignment was plagiarized from other sources (including other students’ work or online websites) will result in grade penalties that may include loss of credit for this assignment and possible disciplinary action.

AP English

Part 3: AP Course Introduction and Practice

In June, you were given a packet that includes information about the AP English program. Students should read over this information, which will acquaint them with the goals and benefits of the AP English program; complete the multiple-choice practice test; and review the answers to this practice test to assess their strengths and weaknesses in answering multiple choice questions.

Please keep in mind that we will be reviewing multiple choice strategies and practicing regularly during the school year, so do not be concerned if your score on this practice test is low.