

Dear **2021-2022** AP (Advanced Placement) English Language and Composition Students,

With college on the horizon, I applaud you for enrolling in AP English in your junior year. However, I do have some questions for you to consider strongly before committing to this class:

1. Are you currently planning to attend a four-year college or university?
2. Has your current English teacher recommended you for this class?
3. Have you earned As and Bs in your previous English class?
4. Are you satisfied with anything less than an A or a B? In other words, do you work hard in school?
5. Have you scored a 4 or a 5 on the FSA (Florida Standards Assessment) Reading section and/or a 1050 or higher on the PSAT?
6. Have you completed or are you currently enrolled in AP United States History and/or AP US Government?

After answering yes to most of the above questions, be sure to read the following information concerning your recommended summer / required beginning-of-the-year work:

Summer Writing

As most of you already know, your junior year is essential to college admissions. To this end, I ask that you complete one of the essay options required for the 2020-2021 Common Application. Your essay may be no more than 650 words, not including your heading. Your essay **MUST** be submitted according to MLA formatting guidelines. If you include any research, please also include a Works Cited page, which does **NOT** count toward your word limit. Additionally, I ask that you include a creative cover, like a “book cover.” This should pertain to the content of your essay and will acclimate me to your level of creativity/ingenuity as well, a frequently asked question on Teacher Recommendation forms.

Common Application Essay Options:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, 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 have solved or a problem you would like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma — anything 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 or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging 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?

Summer Reading:

While I encourage you to read as many of the books on this list as possible:

<https://www.crowleyisdtx.org/cms/lib5/TX01917780/Centricity/Domain/882/AP%20lit-%201971-2017-Titles%20from%20Open%20Response%20Questions.pdf>

the following two books will be assessed within the first term: *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck. These books integrate content from AP United States History: The Roaring Twenties and The Great Depression (specifically the Dust Bowl).

In addition to these readings, other novels will be self-selected periodically for independent reading assignments throughout the year (as well as optional AP Book Club participation). Simultaneously, we will complete in-class readings which will cover important nonfiction texts from the 1820-1860 Manifest Destiny and Antebellum era to the 1954-1964 Civil Rights era. These readings will then be used to argue more contemporary conflicts, ranging from the just or unjust nature of laws to ongoing racial and socio-economic divide. If you are unable to purchase your books, please do not hesitate to contact me personally, and I will gladly help you, but you must contact me as soon as you can, NOT the week before the assessment, which will occur September 8th.

As you read, please annotate and/or tab significant excerpts that 1) illustrate direct connections to American history/government and 2) illustrate artful use of language. You must have your books with you on the day of the assessment because the assessment will be an “open-note” essay test, requiring you to write an essay which synthesizes content and quotations from two of the three books. You will choose the two books once you have read the prompt, so you must have all three with you on September 8th.

Because the nature of these readings can and will include mature content, you are required to fill out the attached form to turn in on the day of the assessment.

In closing, I am eager to meet you, and I am looking forward to a productive year of personal and academic growth. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call or text me at 321-243-9691 or email me at dipeppe.joanna@brevardschools.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. DiPeppe, National Board Certified Teacher

AP English Language and Composition Teacher, 2000 to present

Creative Communications I and II Teacher

Speech and Debate Coach

Reading Permission Form

I understand that AP English Language and Composition is a college-level course which may result in college credit upon completion of the AP exam, and, therefore, the content read and discussed within the course may directly or indirectly conflict with family values, political, and/or religious beliefs.

Additionally, the content of these books may delve into mature, adult content, including but not limited to profane language, self-harm, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit physical intimacy, as well as emotional and physical violence. I understand that the purpose of this reading is neither to indoctrinate nor to impose on parental influence but rather to emulate college level discussions and debate. Finally, I understand that three books have been selected, *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck; and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot and will be assessed on October 12th, requiring your child to have them in class on that day. If you need assistance with this, please contact me at your earliest convenience using the contact information offered in the attached letter.

I hereby give my child permission to read the three aforementioned books as well as to self-select books from the list found on the link provided in my letter.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you do not agree to allow your child to read these books, in the space below, please list book titles that you would prefer for your child to read this year, and I will gladly accommodate this request:

(Optional) Preferred Book List: