

Brockton High School
AP English Literature and Composition
2013-2014 Summer Assignment



Overview: Welcome to Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. The first requirement of this course involves summer reading which provides the foundation of our work together during the 2013-2014 school year. You will read and annotate three texts, write a paper on one of these texts, and complete assessments on the texts in September. The summer assignment is essential to the beginning of the course; thus, it is imperative that you complete the work in its entirety before the first day of school.

Requirements: Each student must do the following:

- I. **Text #1:** Obtain a copy of and annotate *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. We will refer to this text all year, so it is in your best interest to own your own copy. I recommend you complete this assignment first. There will be an exam on this text in September.

- II. **Texts #2 & #3 and Essay:**
 - a. Obtain a copy of *Crime and Punishment* by Feodor Dostoevsky and *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. Used copies are available through Amazon.com and other booksellers. We will refer to these texts all year, so it is in your best interest to own your own copies. I do not care what edition of the books you purchase.
 - b. Annotate these books as needed to help you do well on the September assessments. These notes are for you. I will not collect or evaluate them. Use the chapters in Foster's book to help you read these texts with an analytical eye (that is why I suggest you read Foster first). Let Foster's suggestions guide your annotation because they will be the basis of the September assessments.
 - c. **Essay:** Please refer to the back of this handout for specific directions.

- III. **September 2013 Deadlines:**
 - a. **Wednesday, 9/4/13 (the first day of school):** Your summer essay will be collected on the first day of school. These papers are the basis of our first revision lesson at the beginning of the school year. The summer essay will be graded, but all students will have the opportunity to revise the paper for a higher grade during the first weeks of school.
 - b. **Monday, 9/9/13:** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* Test
 - c. **Tuesday, 9/10/12:** *Crime and Punishment* Test
 - d. **Wednesday, 9/11/13:** *Invisible Man* Test

Summer Reading Test Format:

- I will provide 4 questions that require a paragraph response.
- You will choose any 3 to answer.
- Responses are assessed for accurate content and mechanics of writing.
- Each response is worth 10 points.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- ⇒ AP English Literature and Composition is a college-level course, not a preparation for college. Students who find the greatest success in the class are focused, motivated, and diligent in their studies.
- ⇒ I recommend that you get your books early and begin reading and taking notes as soon as possible. Consider creating a schedule of mini-deadlines for the summer to complete your work.
- ⇒ If you have questions or problems, please email me at deirdresmith@bpsma.org from an *appropriate* email address. If your email address is questionable, I will not open it. Write "AP English" in the subject line. Please keep your questions simple and concise. I will help you as soon as I am able. **I am unavailable between the dates of August 26 - September 2, 2013.**

Thanks and good luck. Have a great summer vacation!

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Essay Requirements

Prompt:

Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience.

In both *Crime and Punishment* and *Invisible Man* a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Choose a character from one of these novels and write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Essay Requirements:

- Your essay must be typed according to MLA Guidelines. There are ample resources online about MLA style for you to use.
- Your essay must have a creative and interesting title which reflects the content of your paper.
- Your essay must be no less than 3 pages and no more than 4 pages.
- Each essay must be based on **your** close reading of the text and not on research or any other outside sources. Any evidence of plagiarism in your essay will result in a zero for that assignment.
- This essay is due on the first day of school. Each student will have an opportunity to revise these papers for a higher grade during the first weeks of school.