

"You shall no longer take things at second or third hand, not look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on the spectres in books. You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me, you shall listen to all sides and filter them from yourself."

— Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

Course Description:

The Advanced Placement English Language course aims to inspire you to be lifelong learners (and lovers) of language! As a college level course, the content and instruction are designed both to prepare you for the rigors of the college classroom, and to help you unpack the power of words and the art of composition. Applying the words of Walt Whitman, you will uncover your own voice through active reading, thinking, writing, synthesizing, analyzing, and arguing. Works from a variety of time periods and rhetorical contexts will provide you with springboards for discussion and models for crafting your own writing. Texts and assignments will expand beyond the written word to include visual arts, graphic novels, political cartoons, photography, architecture, and advertisements. It is essential that you take full responsibility for your education. I will provide materials and opportunities, but as independent, focused individuals you will have to make the most of these resources, and often determine in which direction the course will run. Students who complete this course are expected to take the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

You will find your summer reading assignments on the next page. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jbillings@achs.net over the summer. I will respond as soon as possible.

- Your summer work will count toward Q1 and lay a foundation for the course.
- All assignments must be with you on the first day of class in September 2019.
- Late work will receive partial credit.
- Please keep your summer writing assignments in a **one subject notebook**.

SUMMER READING

Part 1: READER

Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

As you read, focus in particular on passages that refer to *education, learning, knowledge, intelligence*. Note these passages in your book. Be sure to cover the breadth of the novel. In your notebook, handwrite a response which discusses where, how, and from whom Huck receives his education. Consider too: How does he feel about being educated? Do you think Huck is smart? Do you think Tom is smart? Next, copy into your notebook samples of Huck's speech. Include a sample of Huck's dialogue, and a sample of his narration. Remember to include page numbers.

Part 2: READ LIKE A WRITER

A. Read *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White (free pdf available here, or purchase the 4th Ed.)

FREE PDF: [The Elements of Style by Strunk and White](#) Yes. You need to read a "grammar book."

B. Read *On Writing* by Stephen King

"I want to suggest that to write to your best abilities, it behooves you to construct your own toolbox and then build up enough muscle so you can carry it with you. Then, instead of looking at a hard job and getting discouraged, you will perhaps seize the correct tool and get immediately to work"

--Stephen King

Read King's memoir like a writer. As you read, underline the good advice that you want to take with you to class in the fall. In your notebook, handwrite a page or two describing what you already carry in your own toolbox.

Check out these little gems:

http://selectedreads.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/10-writing-tips_22378461.pdf

PART 3: WRITER

Read "The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me" by Sherman Alexie.

[PDF "The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me"](#)

Alexie's essay is a literacy narrative, a popular way for writers to talk about their relationship with reading, speaking, and writing. (It is also commonly used as a first assignment for college composition courses.) Use Alexie's essay as a model for your own literacy narrative. Handwrite your literacy narrative in your notebook. Here are a couple of links to helpful advice for getting started.

<https://hobbylark.com/writing/How-to-Write-a-Literacy-Narrative>

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Write-a-Good-Literacy-Narrative>