**Summer 2017 – AP Literature and Composition Summer Assignment**

There are two components to the summer assignment. The first component is meant to prepare you for the AP Literature exam in May of 2018; it will also serve as a way to familiarize you with a novel that you can use as a reference point throughout the year. The second component of the assignment is meant to prepare you for the rigorous task of applying to colleges in the fall; furthermore, the summer assignment demonstrates your willingness to work diligently, as well as your commitment to the course.

As an added note, I would encourage you to read vigorously throughout the summer. Well-read students tend to do well on the AP Exam and in college. Knowledge of a wide-variety of texts can serve you well! You’ll be surprised as to how much you can read if you set aside time each day for reading.

*Part 1: Close Reading of Text*

You must read chapters 1, 10, 19, 21 and 25 from *How to Read Literature Like a* *Professor* by Thomas Foster, and then apply what you have learned from this text as you read one of the following novels:

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn –* Mark Twain

*Invisible Man –* Ralph Ellison

*Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Bronte

Read and Annotate chapters in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*; then relate these chapters to the novel you choose to read. (See instructions below.)

1. Read one novel from the list of three above.
2. While reading this novel, you should be annotating, marking the novel, and recording page numbers of specific scenes or quotes that you find meaningful or interesting.
3. When you have finished, refer back to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. For each chapter you read in HTRLLAP, find an example from your novel and explain how the author uses this writing technique. This should be multiple paragraphs. Quotes from both texts are to be used to support any statements. Specific instructions for this assignment can be found on the back of this sheet.

Directions: Using quotations from both texts, answer the question accompanying the quotation.

This should be a well-written discussion (i.e. 2-3 paragraphs for EACH) of the message Foster is

expressing in *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and the message the author is

expressing in your chosen novel. This portion of the assignment is due on Monday, 8/14/17.

**1. Every Trip is a Quest (Chapter One): ― “The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge”**

**(Foster 3).**

In the novel, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain how he or she gains self-knowledge.

**2. It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow (Chapter Ten): ― “It’s never just rain” (Foster 75).**

Choose a scene where weather or the environment is more than what it seems and explain the

significance.

**3. Geography Matters (Chapter 19): ― “Geography in literature…can be revelatory of**

**virtually any element in the work. Theme? Sure. Symbol? No problem. Plot? Without a**

**doubt” (Foster 166).**

Pay special attention to the geography in the novel and explain its importance in the story, the

characters, and the message the author is sending to his or her readers.

**4. Marked for Greatness (Chapter 21): ― “How many stories do you know in which the**

**hero is different from everyone else in some way. . .” (Foster 195).**

Who is the hero in the novel? How do you know he or she is the hero? Is there a visible, physical

difference between the hero and other characters?

**5. Don’t Read With Your Eyes (Chapter 25): ― “…take the works as they were intended**

**to be taken…” (Foster 228).**

Choose a quote that reflects the overall meaning of the work. What did you glean from this

reading experience?

Please see the attached rubric for scoring. Make sure to type your responses on separate pages (5 pages total, double spaced, 12” Times New Roman) You will receive a score of 0-9 for each of the responses, and then these will be averaged together for an overall score.

*Part Two: College Application Essay*

You will need to do a considerable amount of introspection to complete this essay. This is meant

to be personal and should reveal your intellect, desire, and character. This is an application essay

in which you should not TELL a story - you should SHOW who you are through your personal

experiences. YOU MUST SHOW WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF!

Therefore, you should avoid using passive verbs like "is/was" or "are/were," and replace them

with active verbs that show action and emotion. Also, you obviously must write in first person (I,

me, we, etc.) about one of your favorite subjects: YOURSELF! Although you should write in

first person, avoid overusing personal pronouns like "I" and "my", etc. Although the structure is

truly optional, make sure your reader can follow with a clear beginning, middle, and end. The

narrative should be 250-500 words (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font)

Choose **ONE** of the following prompts:

A. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

B. The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

C. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

D. Describe a place or environment where you are perfectly content. What do you do or experience there, and why is it meaningful to you?

E. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

F. Indicate an individual who has a significant influence on you and your personal growth. Describe that influence and how it affects your character.

G. Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that’s important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment make you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

H. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma-anything that is 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.

I. Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern. Specifically how has this issue personally impacted your life?

Hints and Tips:

1 – A great application essay will present a vivid personal and compelling view of you to your teacher

and/or a college admissions board.

2 – Narrow your topic and keep your focus on one great idea. Admissions officers read hundreds of

essays each day, and they have many submissions on the same few topics. Try to make yours unique.

3 – Avoid writing about the 4 “D’s”: death, divorce, drugs, and depression. Don’t think that you must

have had a tragedy or trauma in your life to have a good essay topic. You can write about common

happenings such as riding a bicycle or failing a test; the magic comes in how you approach the topic.

4 – Make sure the real you comes out in your essay. VOICE is the most important: your personal voice

must be communicated through your writing style.

5 – After you have finished, ask yourself if anyone else could have written the essay. If the answer is

“yes,” it is not personal and individual enough for an admissions essay.

Please see the attached rubric that will be used to score this assignment. This part of the summer assignment will be due on Monday, 8/21/2017

Contact Information:

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Also, I have a Remind for our class. Text @fdefde to the number 81010. Feel free to send me any questions through the Remind messaging feature as well.