

AP ENGLISH IV – SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS 2023

General instructions: To accommodate for students who are reliant on their surfaces to complete their work and to use Teams as a means of submitting work, due dates for summer work are somewhat flexible. Look for an e-mail for a new Team for AP English around August 1st. Once that has been set up, there will be assignments in Teams for the submission of your summer work.

Some reminders for submitting your work:

- Always submit Word documents on Teams. It's much easier for grading than OneNote or GoogleDocs.
- Always follow MLA guidelines for formatting your work including an appropriate heading, correct spacing, etc.
- Always use literary present tense in writing about literature.
- Never use first- or second-person personal pronouns such as I, we, you, and their variations in formal academic writing.
- Essays should follow the five-paragraph essay structure unless otherwise indicated.

Assignment #1: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

- Read the novel.
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. Choose THREE of the following thematic topics and write a theme statement encapsulating what Kesey has to say about this topic in the novel. Then explain why you think this is what Kesey is saying using specific examples from the novel: madness; freedom and confinement; manipulation; power; laws and order; rebellion and conformity. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
 2. Explain the author's use of TWO of the following symbols in the novel: the fog; rabbits and the wolf; the combine; electroshock therapy. (This question requires TWO paragraphs.)
 3. Discuss the author's use of ONE of the following motifs in the novel: invisibility; the power of laughter.
 4. Evaluate the reliability of Chief Bromden as the narrator of the novel.
 5. Kesey uses a significant amount of religious imagery throughout the novel, especially the last sections. What is the purpose of this imagery?
 6. The title and the novel's opening epigraph come from a children's folk rhyme. Look up the rhyme and explain why you think the author references this in the title and epigraph.
 7. Explain whether this novel is more about the treatment of mental patients in hospitals in the 1950's or society and its treatment of non-conformists in the 1950's. Be sure to explain why you have chosen the stance you have.
- Write an essay responding to one of the following prompts:
 - A. How does the use of Chief Bromden as the narrator of this novel either highlight or detract from the reliability of the information the reader gets about the events of this novel?
 - B. In the final sections of the novel, the comparison between McMurphy and Christ becomes quite obvious. Explain why Kesey makes this comparison. What is the message of this comparison?
- Submit your work no later than August 14.

Assignment #2: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus

- Read the novel.
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. Explain the author's use of THREE of the following symbols in the novel: the sun, heat, and weather; the old, odd, robotic woman in part 1 chp. 5 and part 2 chp. 3; the crucifix; the young reporter in the courtroom; the courtroom; laughing and swimming. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
 2. What is the effect of Mersault's detached first-person narration of the story? Remember, he's committed a crime and will be guillotined if convicted.

3. Explain the meaning of the title thinking about the following bit of information. This novel was originally written in French with the title *L'Étranger* which can be translated as either *The Stranger* or *The Foreigner*. Does the translation matter? If so, why?
 4. Choose THREE of the following thematic topics and write a theme statement encapsulating what Camus has to say about this topic in the novel. Then explain why you think this is what Camus is saying using specific examples from the novel: philosophical viewpoint – the absurd; mortality; religion; isolation; sadness; man and the natural world; women and femininity; society and class; passivity; friendship. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
- Write an essay responding to the following prompt:

The senior talon is “Faith” and this novel deals with how people behave when they have little or no spiritual or religious faith or belief in a higher power or life after death. Camus considered himself an absurdist while many critics label him an existentialist. In both cases, these writers believe that there is no great purpose in life beyond the here and now. Write an essay which examines Mersault’s motivation, or lack of motivation, and how it affects the people around him and how Mersault’s actions, thoughts, and beliefs demonstrate what a world lacking faith-filled people would be like.
 - Submit your work no later than August 14.

Assignment #3: *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

- Read the novel.
- Respond to the following analysis questions:
 1. Choose THREE of the following thematic topics and write a theme statement encapsulating what Huxley has to say about the topic in this novel. Then explain why you think this is what Huxley is saying using specific examples from the novel. Topics include: science and technology; sex; power; suffering; literature and writing; freedom and confinement; isolation; drugs and alcohol; identity; spirituality; society and class; dissatisfaction. (This question requires THREE paragraphs.)
 2. Explain the use of animal imagery throughout the novel; be sure to tie this to a potential theme.
 3. Explain the author’s use of TWO of the following symbols in the novel: bottles; soma; music; the electric fence; zippers; weather; Ford. (This question requires TWO paragraphs.)
 4. The novel makes multitudinous references to Shakespeare within the novel. Choose TWO quotes from Shakespeare in the novel and explain the connection between the Shakespearean play and this novel that you believe the author wants his readers to make. (This question requires TWO paragraphs.)
- Write an essay responding to one of the following prompts:
 - A. Discuss the relationship between religion, science, and political power in the World State. How prophetic is Huxley’s viewpoint on this in the 1930s (when he wrote the novel) when one views the current climate in the U.S. concerning these topics? How might Huxley’s novel be a warning to those who would tie either science or religion closely to political power?
 - B. It seems undeniable that most World State members are happy, though people like John, Bernard, and Helmholtz might criticize the quality of their lives. What, then, is wrong with World State society? Discuss the relationship between truth and happiness, and the use of *soma*.
- Submit your work no later than August 21.