

SENIOR A.P. LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION



A.P. LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2017-18

PART ONE: Over the summer we'd like you to **read *Brave New World*** by Aldous Huxley. Please buy the edition with the ISBN number 978-0-06-085052-4. We will work with this novel at the beginning of the year, so it will be helpful if we all have the same edition. **On the first day of school, expect to have an assessment on *Brave New World*.** We will then use *Brave New World* to begin practicing skills for the AP test.

NOTE: This is a dystopian novel on the order of *1984*. Some of the situations may seem disturbing or bizarre. Just know that each of these plays a key role in the themes of the novel.

Upon completion of the reading, then **complete TWO (2) of the following composition notebook essays (hand-written)**. Since both instructors use the composition notebook as a staple resource in our classes, please invest in one of these - in case you're unclear, they are the black and white speckled smaller notebooks. You may find other colors, but **no spirals** or any other type will be accepted. Your hand-written entries should demonstrate an original, comprehensive interpretation of the novel and its themes. Your submissions should also start with a strong opening sentence. For those who like to quantify an assignment, a minimum of two pages (one side = one page) in length is a suitable target.

#1. Recently a student in one of my classes was frustrated with the seemingly picky fine points of punctuation. He said that it wasn't really important. He went on to say that he felt the world would be a much better place if people didn't have to think very much, but could just enjoy life. How would you respond to him using *BNW* as support?

#2. In the twentieth century, many novels were written warning of the dangers of misusing scientific knowledge or of carrying such knowledge to extremes. In a well-organized essay, discuss how Aldous Huxley's novel could be considered to be such a cautionary work.

#3. Max Frisch (1911-1991) wrote, "Technology {gives us} the knack of so arranging the world that we don't have to experience it." In a well-organized essay, defend, challenge, or qualify this

SENIOR A.P. LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

assertion about technology. Include evidence from your reading, experience, or observation to support your position.

#4 . In some novels, the author focuses more on the internal turmoil of a character than on the character's external conflicts in order to explore philosophical questions and develop the novel's themes. Choose one such character who faces internal conflicts, and explain how those conflicts serve to develop the novel's themes and ideas.

#5. John Berryman (1914-1972) wrote "The world is gradually becoming a place where I do not care to be anymore." Write an essay in which you discuss why a person of the twentieth century might express such a sentiment and whether the sentiment is substantially valid. Draw upon your own reading, observation.

PART TWO: PERSONAL STATEMENT PRE-WRITING & DRAFTING

On the following pages of the Personal Statement Activity sheets, you will find directions asking you first to brainstorm about topics that could be developed into a personal statement essay (these types of essays are often requested as part of the college application process). We will also ask you to select three (3) of these ideas and write essays addressing those prompts.

Follow the directions (as noted) and be prepared to turn in **ALL** work on the first day of school for the 2017-18 academic year.

So, to sum it all up... by the end of the summer, you should have:

- (★) Read *Brave New World*;
- (★) Written two (2) essays regarding *Brave New World*'s themes (as indicated above);
- (★) Jotted down ideas on the Personal Statement Activity sheet (as directed);
- and**
- (★) Written three (3) personal statement essays inspired by the Personal Statement Activity Sheet.

We're looking forward to working with all of you next year as SENIORS - CLASS OF 2018! Happy Reading and Writing!

Sincerely Your AP Lit Instructors,

Ms. Sheila Furey-Sullivan (sfureysullivan@d230.org)

Ms. Lauren Robinson (larobinson@d230.org)