2019 Summer Assignment: A.P. Literature & Composition

Component #1: How to Read Literature Like a Professor

Read How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas Foster (first edition). Copies of the text are available to check out from Mrs. Yi (room 206) or in the Counseling Department. You can also read a digital copy of the text here: bit.ly/APLITHTML (case-sensitive).

A new edition of How to Read Literature Like a Professor was recently published. It is different from the first edition. Specifically, it is missing a chapter important to this assignment. If you choose to purchase a new copy of the text (rather than borrowing a copy of the first edition from HHS), please be sure to navigate your web browser to the HHS English page and download the PDF of Chapter 4 ("If It’s a Square, It’s a Sonnet"). You will need to read this chapter in addition to the new edition of the text. Chapter 4 is also available in the digital copy of the text linked above (bit.ly/APLITHTML).

As you read the text, take notes. You will be allowed to use your notes on the Reading Quiz (see Component #4), so be meticulous but concise. Your notes may not exceed 2 typed pages (following MLA style conventions: Times New Roman, size 12 font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, etc.).

Component #2: Chapter Assignments

On the next page, you will find a list of several short writing assignments. They will help you to practice composing literary analysis, and they will help me to get to know you and your literary tastes.

- Write 2 paragraphs in response to each prompt. Each response should be titled, start on a new page, and follow MLA style conventions (you only need to include an MLA heading on the first page).
- Whenever I ask for an example from literature, use a specific literary work to examine.
- Even though this is analytical writing, you may use "I" if you deem it important to do so; remember, however, that most uses of "I" are just padding. For example, "I think the wolf is the most important character in 'Little Red Riding Hood'" is padded.

You will be submitting your assignment on TurnItIn.com. Enrollment information will be provided on the first day of school, depending on which block you have class. The assignment will be due (online) by September 11th (A-day) and 12th (B-day).

Component #3: Literary Devices

You are expected to be familiar with the preponderance of literary terminology on the HHS website (HHS website: Academics > English > Summer Assignments). In the first weeks of school, you will be quizzed on these terms. Review them over the summer to get comfortable.

Component #4: Reading Quiz

On September 11th (A-day) and September 12th (B-day), you will be taking a reading quiz on the novel. You may use a printed copy of your notes during the quiz.

Note: We will begin reading Othello, by William Shakespeare, on the first day of school. You are strongly encouraged to have the summer assignment completed prior to the first day of school. It will make your transition into the AP Literature course much more manageable—especially since you will also be working on college applications/essays at the start of the school year!
Chapter Assignments

How to Read Literature Like a Professor

Introduction: How’d He Do That?
How do memory, symbol, and pattern affect the reading of literature? How does the recognition of patterns make it easier to read complicated literature? Discuss a time when your appreciation of a literary work was enhanced by understanding symbol or pattern.

Chapter 1: Every Trip Is a Quest (Except When It's Not)
List the five aspects of the QUEST and then apply them to something you have read (or viewed) in the form used on pages 3-5. (Think King Arthur, Huckleberry Finn, etc.)

Chapter 4: If It's Square, It's a Sonnet
Select a Shakespearean sonnet and discuss how its content reflects the form. Include the text of the sonnet above the analysis. One paragraph should focus on the sonnet’s theme development and the other paragraph should focus on the sonnet’s development of tone. Don’t know where to find a Shakespearean sonnet? Try http://www.sonnets.org or skim some poetry books at a library.

Chapter 6: When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare...
Discuss a work (literary or film) that you are familiar with that alludes to or reflects Shakespeare. Show how the author uses this connection thematically. Read pages 44-46 carefully. In these pages, Foster shows how Fugard reflects Shakespeare through both plot and theme. In your discussion, focus on theme.

Chapter 10: It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow
Discuss the importance of weather in a specific literary work—NOT just in terms of plot (think symbolically).

Chapter 19: Geography Matters...
Discuss and analyze two different aspects of a specific literary work that Foster would classify under “geography.”

Chapter 21: Marked for Greatness
Figure out Harry Potter’s scar or select another character with a physical imperfection and analyze its implications for characterization.

Chapter 25: Don't Read with Your Eyes
After reading Chapter 25, choose a scene or episode from a novel, play, or epic written before the 20th century (pre-1900). Contrast how it could be viewed by a reader from the 21st century with how it might be viewed by a contemporary reader. Focus on specific assumptions that the author makes, assumptions that would not make it in this century.