

SENIOR A.P. LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION



A.P. LITERATURE & COMPOSITION SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2019-20

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 or near 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.

Although you will not be assessed on annotations, we still expect that you will annotate the novel as you read, marking/highlighting important passages and language that develop the novel's themes.

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 ONE (1) of the following composition notebook essays (handwritten)**. 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 handwritten entries should demonstrate an original, comprehensive and organized interpretation of the novel and its themes. It should incorporate relevant textual evidence from the novel as support for your analysis. 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.

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#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 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 **TWO (2)** 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 2019-20 academic year.

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

- (★) Read *Brave New World*;
- (★) Written one (1) essay regarding *Brave New World*'s themes (as indicated above);
- (★) Jotted down ideas on the Personal Statement Activity sheet (as directed);
- and**
- (★) Written two (2) 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 2020! Happy Reading and Writing!

Sincerely Your AP Lit Instructors,

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NAME _____

DATE _____

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

PART A. Write a word or sentence that applies to each of the following categories.

1. Most significant personal event/incident in your life:
2. Another significant personal event/incident from your life:
3. The most personally important spiritual event in your life:
4. The most amusing event in your life:
5. The greatest learning experience/incident in your life:
6. The most important person in your family:
7. The most important person in history:
8. The most important person NOT in your family:
9. The most important change you've made
10. The most significant historical event:
11. The most important news event:
12. The biggest hope/dream/goal for yourself:
13. The biggest hope or dream for the world:
14. The most important NON-school teacher in your life:
15. The biggest problem you've overcome:
16. The most significant idea you've encountered:
17. The most embarrassing moment in your life:
18. The most important writer:
19. Your most important achievement:
20. The most important change you'd like to see in the world:
21. The most important lesson you've learned:
22. The kindest person you've met:

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23. The most important class you've taken:
24. The greatest challenge you have faced:
25. The most influential person in your life:
26. The most important value you hold:
27. The historical persona you would most like to spend some time with:
28. The most important or significant book you have read:
29. The best piece of advice you have received:
30. The invention you would most like to develop-or see developed:
31. Your most important non-academic interest:
32. The word that best describes you:
33. What you'd most like to be remembered for from your first 18 years:
34. Your favorite piece of music:
35. The most important advice you'd give a high school freshman:
36. The best job you've ever had:
37. The most significant news event during your life:
38. The most important reason for going to college:
39. The most interesting place you've visited:
40. The place you've not been to that you would most like to visit:

PART B. Now select and circle **TWO (2)** of the items above. For **each** one, **hand-write a composition notebook response** that appropriately addresses the prompt. These responses do not have to be in final draft form, of course, but aim for rich detail and an authentic voice.