

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition!

The English Department at J. Frank Dobie High School continues to offer Advanced Placement English III to all interested juniors for the 2010-2011 school year. We are excited about our program for students who are willing to go beyond the usual reading of material into the exploration of the development and style of the author. Advanced Placement English III is more demanding than English III, and students are expected to devote more time and energy to it than they would to an on-level class.

In order to enroll in the course, students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) must sign the agreement committing to the following requirements. Please read the following carefully, and discuss it with your family.

1. Homework Expectations

Students should plan to spend about 30-45 minutes on homework *each night*.

Reading assignments will be expected to be done at home; class time will not be provided.

2. Grading Policy

Under no circumstances is late work accepted in AP classes. If a student will not be attending school for any reason the day a major assignment is due, he/she should arrange to have the assignment brought to the teacher before the end of the school day (2:30).

3. AP Exam

The AP English Language Exam is historically given in the middle of May.

AP students are expected to take this exam at the end of the course and pay for the attached fee.

Afternoon study sessions for the AP Exam will begin in the spring semester.

4. Summer Reading List

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

*An essay is required for this book and it will be due the second day of class. There is a two page minimum for this essay, and there is not a maximum. This essay will help us determine what writing skills we will focus on for the first six weeks. Please put in your best effort.

*Essay Prompt: Does *In Cold Blood* have a protagonist? Is it Herb Clutter? Dewey? Perry? Explain.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

*All incoming juniors, regardless of whether they are in AP or not, will be required to read this book over the summer and complete the assignment that corresponds to it.

5. Core Reading List/Assignments

This course focuses on non-fiction (essays, philosophy, etc.), but some fiction will be included.

Students will read selections that are consistent with what a college level course would require and may be much more mature than the readings given in an on-level course.

It is expected that students enrolled in an AP course are college bound, and we will focus on college preparatory skills: writing, analyzing difficult text, SAT practice, study skills, etc.

*The research project for the first semester is a College Research Project. Students will research how to gain admission into three different universities, apply for financial aid, locate scholarships, plan a college campus visit, and set goals for their junior and senior years to get into the college(s) of their choice.

*We will have college speakers visit us during this first semester to answer questions and share admission "hints".

Writing assignments will focus on rhetorical analysis, argumentative essays, and research. Do not be intimidated if you do not feel that your writing skills are up to par; it is the goal of this AP course to bring you to the level of a college student who has taken a course in writing and rhetoric. You will develop these writing skills in this AP class so that you will be successful in your college career.

6. AP English & AP US History

The AP English course at the junior level and the AP US History course offered to juniors have many similarities and overlapping assignments. Many students have found it beneficial to be enrolled in both courses, though it is not a requirement. Please talk to your counselor if you would like to be in AP US History and are not already enrolled.

7. Changing to English III

The teacher may recommend that a student be placed in an English III class if that student is encountering great difficulty with the workload or with the higher level thinking skills. The student may choose to exit the course after communication with his/her parent. In either case the change must take place during the first six weeks or at the end of the semester. The student must present to the counselor a note from the teacher in order to exit the AP class. No student may enter the AP program the second semester.

If you would like to enroll in English III AP for the fall, sign the agreement on the last page and return it to your English teacher or Mrs. M. Alexander. This form must be completed and on file before you will be allowed to enter the course. If you have questions, call Mrs. M. Alexander at 713-740-0370 at J. Frank Dobie High School or email at malexander@pasadenaisd.org

Sincerely,

Marissa Alexander

Matthew Park

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH III
AGREEMENT
2010 - 2011**

To the J. Frank Dobie High School English Department:

I would like to enroll in Advanced Placement English III for fall, 2010. My family and I have read the information described on the previous pages of this agreement and agree to the requirements of the class. I understand that the reading in this class will be on par with the expectations of a college class.

Student Signature: _____

Print name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Present English teacher's name: _____

Date: _____