

May 2019

Dear Parents:

Your child has requested **English III AP** for the upcoming school year. The purpose of this course is to offer promising students challenging work that will prepare them for collegiate reading and writing.

In Alvin Independent School District, Advanced Placement English courses are offered to eleventh and twelfth grade students. Upon successful completion of course work, students may take AP examinations administered each year in May, and if successful, they will be awarded college English credit accepted by most universities.

Pre-AP courses offered in grades 6-10 help students develop reading, writing, and thinking skills necessary for success in AP courses. Reading selections for these courses represent concepts and/or reading selections frequently cited on Advanced Placement examinations. Because both Pre-AP and AP courses include works that are challenging, students are required to complete a summer reading assignment.

Specifically, the English III AP summer reading assignment is designed to prepare students for the complexity of AP passages as well as to give them the skill set necessary to excel at writing in different modes of collegiate composition.

For the summer of 2017, the reading assignment comes from the following text:

- *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology* by Samuel Cohen (ISBN: 0-312-45402-3)

* As your child will need to annotate the essays, he/she will either need to purchase this book (ANY edition will work) or find each essay on the internet and print it out.

Please encourage your child to complete this reading assignment in order to be prepared for an assessment at the beginning of the school year.

Thank you for your cooperation and continuing interest in your student's education.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Liptack
Secondary ELA Director of Curriculum

Glen Russell
Secondary ELA Curriculum Coordinator

All AISD Summer reading titles have been given to the following local book vendor:

Barnes and Noble - Pearland and Webster

Please sign and return to your student’s current English teacher.

My child and I have received notice of the summer assignment for **English III AP** and will comply. We understand that the completion date for this assignment is **AUGUST 15, 2019**, the first day of school.

In the fall of 2018, my child will attend:

_____ Alvin High School

_____ Manvel High School

_____ Shadow Creek High School

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Current English Teacher’s Name _____

Current Campus _____

*** NOTE: If you do not wish to have your child enrolled in Pre-AP or AP English Language Arts, please contact the guidance counselor at your child’s school.

Advanced Placement English III

Summer Reading Assignment

Objectives

For this assignment, the student should strive to:

- Understand the author's claim
- Take a position on the author's claim
- Analyze the author's style and use of appeals

Assignment Directions:

- Read **one essay of your choice** in each rhetorical mode category and annotate it as you read. There are nine modes, so you will read and annotate nine essays.
- The categories and author/titles from the first edition (for example) are listed on pages 4 & 5 of this assignment sheet.
 - After reading each essay, you will need to compose an analytical paragraph which includes the following:
 1. What is the author's claim?
 - *A claim is the author's main point.
 - *A claim must be argumentative. When you make a claim, you are arguing for a certain interpretation or understanding of your subject.
 - *A good claim is specific. It makes a focused argument (MTV's popularity is waning because it no longer plays music videos) rather than a general one (MTV stinks).
 - *A claim can be substantiated with research, evidence, testimony, and academic reasoning.
 2. How does he/she support this claim? (rhetorical technique, rhetorical appeal, style, etc.)
 3. Is the author's claim still valid today? (Prove or disprove by connecting it to a modern issue, practice, institution, or current event)
 - Though the paragraph should be detailed, it should be answered concisely, in no more than 100 words.
 - Create a Word document containing all nine essay responses, and clearly label each one.

On the **FIRST** day of class, students should bring their books/annotated essays, their printed word documents, and should be prepared to participate in a discussion over the reading.

50 Essays: A Portable Anthology by Samuel Cohen

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