

Dear Prospective AP Language Student:

Welcome to your two-year experience with AP Language and Composition in 11th grade and AP Literature and Composition in 12th grade. These are college-level courses and students must use the summer reading experience to prepare for the challenge and rigor that is expected of the AP-level student. The 11th grade course focuses on both fiction and non-fiction prose and on improving writing skills. Please complete the following by the first day of school.

I. **Read all of *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu**, a text that is over 2,000 years old but that is still used for military and *non*-military purposes. It is the non-military purposes, what Sun Tzu has to say about life in general, on which we will focus. For instance: Donald Trump says the book helped him to build and maintain his real estate empire; it is required reading in many corporations, especially at higher levels of management. It is a favorite book of Steve Spurrier, coach of the University of South Carolina football team; many coaches require their players to read it. It was given to the contestants on *Survivor: China* as a way of preparing them for their experience. Many players of computer games and software designers use it as a strategy guide. See if you can grasp why this is so.

You may buy the book, or you may read it *on-line*. (Google “The Art of War” + Sun Tzu and you can read various hypertext versions. Be sure the site seems reputable – one with .edu in the URL usually is. I liked the version under [Internet Classics Archive](#).) Read slowly and carefully. If you buy the book, *highlight* what you consider key points or “pieces of advice.” If you read on-line, *jot down* key points or “pieces of advice.” *You need to be very familiar with this text.*

II. **Read selected chapters from *The Prince* by Nicolo Machiavelli**. Chapters to read: XIV (14), XV (15), XVII (17), XIX (19), XXI (21), and XXIII (23). Again, you may buy the book, or you may read these chapters *on-line*. (Google “The Prince” + Machiavelli to find various hypertext versions. Again, check for .edu in the URL.) Read slowly and carefully. *Highlight* or *jot down* key points or “pieces of advice.” *You need to be very familiar with this text.*

You will be writing an essay during the first week of class in which you discuss the similarities and differences in the *approaches to life* expressed by Sun Tzu and Machiavelli. You may use any notes, highlighting, etc. that you prepared during the summer so take the time to do this *thoughtfully and thoroughly*.

III. You will write a lot in this class. One of the types of writing that you will see a lot on the AP exam (and in class) is argumentative or persuasive writing. So that I can see a sample of your writing early on, write a *two-page response* to the following prompt (from a former AP exam). This will be turned in on the first day of class. Type your essay, if possible. All typed essays should be double-spaced.

PROMPT:

In many national elections, only a fraction of eligible voters actually cast ballots. For local elections, the voter turnout is even smaller. To prevent this state of affairs, some countries, such as Australia, make voting compulsory for all adults. In a well-written essay that draws upon your reading, experience, and observations, take and support a position on the issue of compulsory voting.

IV. We know you have AP obligations, but we encourage you to participate in the school-wide Reading Jump Start program as well; you will hear about this program in your English classes. This is your chance to read a book of your choosing and to discuss the book with a staff member and other students who read the book when the school year begins. You can choose any book from the list that will be provided on on-line at www.wmhsreads.org. Do the writing assignment for that book as your “ticket” into the discussion seminar. I am reading *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski, about a mute boy who trains dogs and faces a terrible family tragedy. My assignment is to write about how the novel would be different if Edgar had been able to speak.

So, read ALL of *The Art of War* and excerpts from *The Prince*. Take notes, highlight, annotate; be *very* familiar with the texts. Write a two-page persuasive essay about compulsory voting that will be turned in on the first day of class. Bring any notes and/or copies of the texts with you as well. Choose a book from the Reading Jump Start list and write the assigned essay.

I look forward to meeting each of you.

Mrs. Laura Salatto, AP Language Teacher

Ms. Wendy Farmer, English Resource Teacher

IV. **Become familiar with the AP exam for this course.** (We expect all AP students to take the AP exam for each AP course they take in May.) **Go on-line to take a practice AP Language and Composition Exam, Multiple Choice Section, and then WRITE a practice exam essay** by following the directions below *very carefully*. (I do not expect to hear you say you couldn't do this, or find this, or whatever. Be resourceful and figure it out!)

To take the practice Multiple-Choice Section:

1. Go to www.collegeboard.com. Get to this site. Click on For Students at top of page.
2. At the top, find the blue rectangle titled College Board Tests. Click on the small AP underneath the blue box.
3. On the left, underneath AP, find the Select a Subject box. Pull down to English Language.
4. On the English Language screen, click on Download the Course Description (.pdf/13M).
5. Click the Bookmark icon on the left to get a Bookmark menu. Click on The Exam. Convert to 100% and read an overview of what you can expect on the AP exam in May.
6. Now further down on the Bookmarks menu, click on Sample Multiple Choice Questions. Convert to 100% and you should see page 12. Take the sample test from page 12 through page 28. **DO THIS ENTIRE TEST** and then check your answers on page 28. (Don't peek! Do the test first so you can see what it's like.) We will talk about the test, test strategies, and how you did during the first week of school. *Don't log off until you read the next part!!!!*

NOW, to get to the essay you have to write:

8. After finishing the Sample Multiple-Choice Questions and checking your answers, click the BACK arrow on the tool bar at the top of the page; go back to the English Language menu where you first clicked on Download. Click on the left, Sample Questions and Scoring in the light blue box.
9. Find the blue Free Response Questions. (These are essay questions that have been used on previous exams.) Click on the *4th one down*: **2006 Form B Free-Response Questions** (.pdf/74K).
10. Scroll to the *second* screen, **Question 1**. (Make it 100% so you can read the question. **The prompt begins "In many national elections..."**)
11. **WRITE THIS ESSAY**. (Please type if possible.) Try for *two pages length*. *Bring this essay with you on the first day of class.*

That's it! Read one short book, *The Art of War*, and sections of two other books, *The Prince* and *Walden*. Highlight, gather quotations, jot down key points, etc, and be ready to write about the similarities and differences in these works. *All of these works can be read on-line*; you **MUST** read the annotated on-line version of the two parts of *Walden*.

Also go on-line to see what the AP exam for this class will be like. Take a practice Multiple-Choice test and then write an essay based on a prompt given in 2006.

Bring your notes, highlighting, etc. for the three books to class on the first day; bring your completed essay with you. Be ready to talk about the multiple-choice practice test.

I look forward to meeting all of you.

Mrs. Laura Salatto

