

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 only 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.*

III. Read a specific, annotated on-line version of *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau, selected chapters only. *The version that I want you to read can be found as follows:* Google “Walden” + Thoreau. Find the site called [Analysis and Notes on Walden – Henry Thoreau’s Text with Adjacent...](#) (When I looked, it was the third site listed. Check for the correct URL – www.kenkifer.com.) This annotated text will allow you to read Thoreau’s actual text, but with *explanations and guidance right next to it*. Be sure to read *both* the actual text *and* the annotations slowly and carefully. **Read the introduction to this book written by the author of the website.** (This will “set the stage” for your reading of the assigned chapters.) **Read only the following sections/chapters: “Economy” Part I ONLY, and Chapter 2, “Where I Lived and What I Lived For.”** (We will be reading much more of *Walden* in class.) *Jot down* any key points, quotations, etc. *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, Machiavelli, and Thoreau. You may use any notes, highlighting, etc. that you prepared during the summer so take the time to do this *thoughtfully and thoroughly*.

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

