Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition. Begin your journey into a challenging and enriching year of serious literary inquiry by reading *Crime and Punishment* a masterpiece by Fyodor Dostoevsky. This summer assignment will nurture the critical reading and writing skills you will draw upon for the AP Literature Exam next May, in college and beyond. This course is designed for the highly motivated and disciplined student with intellectual curiosity, a strong work ethic and a willingness to spend 40 minutes a night on English throughout the academic year.

Dostoevsky’s classic is available in local public libraries and the Churchill English department. Read any translation; then type a two-and-a-half page essay according to the following prompt.

Some of the most significant events in this novel are changes in consciousness, discoveries or other states of mind. Select three such events - from the beginning, middle and end of the novel - and annotate each one thoroughly, analyzing how the author gives these events the sense of excitement, suspense and climax usually associated with external action. **Then write a well-organized essay explaining how Dostoevsky gives these psychological events excitement, and how these scenes contribute to the meaning of the novel as a whole.** In other words, what are Dostoevsky’s primary literary techniques and what idea(s) about life do they convey?

This essay, along with accompanying Xeroxed and annotated passages, will be due on the first day of class and will count 5% of the first quarter grade. The essay without the three amply annotated and Xeroxed passages stapled to it will receive only passing credit. Be prepared to submit your typed essay to turnitin.com during the first week of school.

**Essay Rubric**

An “A” paper should meet these requirements:

1. Begin with an insightful thesis containing explicit assertions (debatable ideas you will support in the essay) that suggest a mode of development. If the thesis statement does not suggest a mode of development, add one, making sure it contains ideas, not characters or events.
2. Include debatable topic sentences that relate to the assertions in the thesis or method of development. Do not make plot-oriented statements!
3. Incorporate specific supports from the annotated passages, quoting the text at least six times in this essay. Do not quote more than two lines at a time, and place page numbers in parentheses after each quotation.
4. Focus on an original and insightful analysis of the topic, avoiding plot summary.
5. Reflect the writer’s control of diction, verbs, transitions, and organization. The writer is you!
6. Reflect the writer’s mastery of standard usage and mechanics.
7. You do not need to do any research for this essay, but if you use researched ideas, document them according to Modern Language Association Style with parenthetical documentation and a Works Cited page.

**Sample Thesis Statement:**

In *Crime and Punishment* Fyodor Dostoyevsky creates psychological excitement through such literary techniques as varied syntax, abrupt tonal shifts and changes in point of view. Through scenes of heightened internal tension, Dostoyevsky implies that insecurity can lead to paranoia and even the willingness of an individual to go to immoral lengths to discover his identity.

Do not use this thesis!

In order to understand the biblical allusions and motifs in many of the works we will study, read the following books of the Bible:

*from any version of the Old Testament:  the Book of Genesis
*from any version of the New Testament: one of the Gospels, that is, either Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

Other books of the Bible are not required reading, but if you have time and inclination, read Exodus, Job, Psalms and Revelation.

**Questions?** Contact Emily Goldberg, English Resource teacher, at Emily_C_Goldberg@mcpsmd.org or at 301-469-1217.