

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Summer 2011 Assignment

You will read two essays:

- “Shooting an Elephant” by George Orwell
- “Consider the Lobster” by David Foster Wallace (including the footnotes)

Then:

1. Print or photocopy each essay in its entirety.
2. Annotate each essay for rhetorical devices, labeling examples of devices such as simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, notable tones, strong/evocative diction, hyperbole, allusion, symbolism, ethos, pathos, logos, etc. While your annotations may also include questions or comments, the majority of your notes should be about identifying devices. Your final annotations should be EXTENSIVE. Do not merely highlight. For the Wallace essay, annotate the footnotes as well. You will be graded on the quality and quantity of your annotation.
3. Write an essay analyzing a significant message George Orwell wishes to convey to his readers. Do not just tell what the message is, but analyze *how* Orwell gets that message across in his essay. To do this, identify TWO of the most effective literary devices and/or rhetorical strategies used by Orwell to convey his message. Be careful not to merely identify the devices or summarize the quotes. You must clearly explain HOW the devices are used to convey a message.

YOUR ESSAY MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

* an interesting title

* an introduction with an interesting opener, lead into the author and title, brief plot summary and lead into the thesis statement (the message the author hopes to convey)

* two body paragraphs, with each one focusing on one device. These paragraphs should include transitions, topic sentences, specific details from the essay, excellent support with your voice and insight (explaining how and why the examples support your thesis), and at least 2 direct quotes per paragraph (minimum of four quotes total in paper) with **correct MLA parenthetical documentation**. Treat each page of the printout as a separate page, beginning with page 1. So, if you use a quote from the second page of the printout, you will cite it as:

“This is the quote” (2).

* a solid conclusion which reiterates the thesis but goes beyond a simple summary of what you said and ends in a strong, interesting way

ANALYZE, DON'T SUMMARIZE! In other words, avoid simple plot summary in the body paragraphs.

YOU WILL ALSO BE GRADED ON:

- * proper grammar and spelling
- * third person (no forms of I, we, you)
- * no contractions unless in quotes
- * no quotes as their own sentences
- * active voice and strong verbs (few “be” verbs - am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been)
- * proper MLA format for the entire paper
- * 2 to 3 pages (max.) typed, double spaced using 12 point font, Times New Roman

To reiterate, your summer reading assignment is to read two essays, annotate two essays, and compose a 2-3 page essay on “Shooting an Elephant.”

THE PAPER AND ANNOTATIONS MUST BE COMPLETELY YOURS AND YOURS ALONE. DO NOT, WE REPEAT, DO NOT USE ANY RESOURCES, OTHER THAN THE ESSAYS THEMSELVES, TO HELP YOU (i.e. NO INTERNET RESOURCES OR CLIFF NOTES TO GIVE YOU IDEAS). WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU OBSERVED WHILE READING THE ESSAYS, NOT WHAT SOMEONE ELSE NOTED. THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM AND WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. THE PAPER, ALONG WITH THE READINGS AND ANNOTATIONS, IS DUE ON THE SECOND DAY OF SCHOOL, TUESDAY AUGUST 30. THE PAPER AND ANNOTATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUR AP TEACHER. THE PAPER AND ANNOTATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONE DAY LATE, ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, FOR A 10% LATE PENALTY, BUT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE. IT IS AN EXPECTATION THAT AP STUDENTS DO NOT TURN IN LATE WORK.

****** IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO SEE DR. JACKSON IN ROOM J272, MRS. GREEN IN K169, OR MS. DIBLER IN K165.******

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

You can use a print version of the full essays that you buy or borrow (you would then annotate a photocopy and use those page numbers), or you can go online to one of the websites below.

“Shooting an Elephant”

<http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~wilkins/writing/Resources/essays/elephant.html>

<http://www.online-literature.com/orwell/887/>

“Consider the Lobster”

http://www.gourmet.com/magazine/2000s/2004/08/consider_the_lobster

A note to students and parents: The county requires students to complete a reading assignment for the summer in your English classes. This assignment, however, should not comprise a student’s entire reading program for the summer. Reading is both an enriching personal experience and an important skill for successful professional life. We encourage students to read that which interests them. If you would like some suggestions, we recommend the following resources. As always we recommend parents review students’ choices for appropriateness.

<http://www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites.html>

<http://www.randomhouse.com/modernlibrary/100bestnonfiction.html>