

Rockville High School
International Baccalaureate Program

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Rockville HS English Department
Pre-IB English 9 Summer Reading Assignment



Thoughtful analysis and critical reading are essential skills for every course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Start now to develop these important strategies.

1. Read the following **TWO** works by the first day of school:

- **Antigone** **Sophocles (recommended translation: Fagles or Watling)**
- **Antigone** **Anouilh (recommended translation: Bray)**

If possible, try to secure your own copies of these works. They are also available at local bookstores, public libraries, the RHS Media Center, or the RHS English department (for summer check-out). It is extremely helpful to annotate and/or highlight as you read. Write notes in the margins or use post-it notes for the books that you borrow from the library or English Department.

2. Complete the following writing assignments. Please put your responses to the assignments below in a **marbled composition book**. Avoid using spirals or notebooks as they can fall apart. **Handwrite** your responses. Plan ahead. Do not try to complete the reading and the writing the night before schools starts!

THREE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS –

1. **COMMENTARY 1** - Select a passage from the Sophocles version of Antigone of approximately 20-25 lines. Copy or attach a photocopy of the passage in your journal. Choose your passage carefully and take time to annotate and/or mark the passage before writing. (avoid dialogue passages and look for an extended speech by one character). Begin your analysis by identifying **the central focus** of the passage (the main idea). Then move systematically through the passage and talk about the language of the passage. Do not just summarize the content of the passage but write about **how the language of the passage creates meaning**.
2. **COMMENTARY 2** - Select a passage from the Anouilh version of Antigone of approximately 20-25 lines. Copy or attach a photocopy of the passage in your journal. Choose your passage carefully and take time to annotate and/or mark the passage before writing. (avoid dialogue passages and look for an extended speech by one character). Begin your analysis by identifying **the central focus** of the passage (the main idea). Then move systematically through the passage and talk about the language of the passage. Do not just summarize the content of the passage but write about **how the language of the passage creates meaning**.
3. **REFLECTION**- Write a one paragraph response to the following (approximately 200 words).
It has been said that the general motive of the play Antigone (both the Anouilh version and the Sophocles version) “concerns the conflict between human law and the individual conscience.” Are both Creon and Antigone equally guilty and deserving of punishment? Why or Why not? Be specific in your response. Support your response with evidence from one of the versions of Antigone.

Assignments will be collected on Tuesday, August 28, 2012.

Read the entirety of both versions of this play carefully. You will be writing an in-class supervised writing during the first week of school as well as additional discussion and analysis.

Questions? If, over the summer, you find that you do not understand an aspect of the assignment and need clarification, please e-mail us. We will do my best to respond to you in a timely fashion.

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