

The following assignments are due the first Friday of the school year.

1. Complete the attached literary device list by defining each device as well as providing examples where appropriate. Use the Internet to complete this list. This is your personal study aide so feel free to reformat it to your liking. You should always reword the definitions (when possible) for better understanding, instead of simply “copy-and-pasting” them into a new file. ☺
2. Choose one college essay topic from any of the colleges to which you are applying and complete the essay. The length should be stated on the application. However, if it isn’t, my minimum length requirement is 1 to 2 pages. Consider this essay to be a **rough draft**. We will work together to improve it throughout the first few weeks of school, after which I will give you a final essay grade for the paper (usually a 100!).
3. Read *Othello* and complete the attached assignment.
4. Read *Oedipus* and *Antigone* and complete the attached assignment. (*Oedipus* is more for background knowledge; *Antigone* is more important in terms of the AP Exam. Do not read *Oedipus at Colonus*)
5. Write an essay on either *Othello* or *Antigone*. The topic choices are listed below. It must be typed in MLA format, 2 pages in length, and must have textual support where appropriate.

**Choose one:**

*Othello* Topic: In a well-supported essay, discuss how jealousy motivates Iago. Also, how does jealousy affect Othello? Conclude with comments on what Shakespeare is saying about human nature, especially regarding our weaknesses and frailties.

*Antigone* Topic: In a well-supported essay, discuss the role of gender in the play. How do stereotypical gender roles affect the characters, the plot, and/or the theme?

6. Read one other book from the attached “AP Reading List” and write a 1-page reaction paper on your chosen book. The reaction paper can be a personal review, an analysis of a character or theme, the use of symbolism, or any other appropriate analysis you can imagine. It must be typed in MLA format. You can borrow the book from either our library or the town’s, if the libraries have them. If you want to purchase it, consider going to a used bookstore. Montclair has an excellent one!

The attached list is an abridged compilation of various books that have appeared on the AP Literature Exam over the last forty years. The criteria for choosing these books varies from my personal opinion, to exam popularity, to “up-and-comers”...books that have gained popularity only recently within AP circles. Some are classics while others are relatively modern. Use the Web to research the books to find something that interests you!

7. Suggested Work: (this is not required, but if you want to “get ahead”, I strongly suggest the following.)
  - Pick a poet from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century and read his/her collected works. (Donne, Keats, Wordsworth, etc...)
  - Read as many books from the AP Reading List as you can throughout the year. The College Board expects you to be very well read. ☺
  - Read editorials and articles from respectable publications (The NY Times, Vanity Fair, The Atlantic, etc...)
  - Reading other “essays” could help you develop your own writing style!

If you need any help at all, please email me at [Jnar@rutherfordschools.org](mailto:Jnar@rutherfordschools.org). I check my email regularly.