Course Description:

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition engages students in the practice of reading a variety of texts with the purpose of performing rhetorical and argumentative analysis. This full year course is composed of three distinct sections, each preparing the student to pass the AP test in the spring. However, this is not just a test prep course; we will also examine many of the seminal works of American Literature. While our larger goal is to develop analytical readers and cogent writers, the College Board has set a specific goal for AP English Language and Composition:

The purpose of the AP English Language and Composition course is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers.

We will spend the coming year developing skills that will enable you to become proficient at this goal.

Explanation of the summer assignment: Student work that does not meet all of the requirements described below will not be considered complete. Late or incomplete work will not be accepted. The summer assignment will have a significant impact on the first semester grade. Completion of the summer assignment is a prerequisite for a passing grade in the course. We will be referring to these books throughout the course.

**Book 1** You will need to purchase and read the following book:
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley*
- You can also obtain an electronic pdf online
- Read and annotate the text

**Book 2** You will need to purchase and read the following book:
- *Barracoon : The Story of the Last “Black Cargo” by Zora Neale Hurston*
- This book is readily available for purchase at bookstores and online.
- Read and annotate the text

**The Assignment**

Read and annotate the text, focusing on how the writers craft their texts. The “how” may include rhetorical strategies and devices, and commonalities between the two texts.

In August, be prepared to write an In Class Essay on these texts. You will be allowed to use your annotated text and any other personal notes you have generated. This essay will be scored using the AP English Language and Composition scoring guideline.

If you have any questions over the summer, you can reach out to any of us. We all have the same summer reading requirements and expectations and can answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie Babbitt
Kathryn Spencer