

2018-19 Advanced Placement English 12
Garfield Heights High School
Instructor: Robert M. Sharp

12th
grade
Honors

Dear Parents and Students,

Rigorous summer independent study programs are commonplace for incoming seniors enrolled in Advanced Placement classes. In preparation for the Advanced Placement English 12 class, two books will be assigned for summer reading.

- *1984* by George Orwell
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

1984 and *The Handmaid's Tale* are classic works of dystopian fiction that often appear on the Advanced Placement examination. You are expected to read each of these books in their *entirety*, without exception.

You are expected to structure and establish your own reading and assignment goals so that you don't find yourself reading two books and doing the essay during the last couple weeks of summer. All summer reading assignments are due on the second day of school. You can expect a test on these books upon our return.

Final Essay

1. Both of these novels take place in dystopian societies: ones in which the future, while promising to be better than our present-day situation, is actually far bleaker. Most often, authors of dystopian fiction write in order to warn readers of impending dangers inherent in contemporary social and political trends. What dangers do Orwell and Atwood warn us of in their novels? You're looking for common trends that both works have in common. Support your conclusion with quotations and examples from the novels. Remember, *connect what you read about to events and trends extant in our own society*.

Essay guidelines

- The essay should be approximately four pages in length and follow strict MLA format regulations.
- How you construct the essay is up to you but make sure you include an introduction and a conclusion and that the essay is properly organized.
- I do not need a physical copy. Please complete your essay on Google Drive and share with me via rsharp@ghbulldogs.org. Make sure your sharing settings are set so that I can view your editing history.
- If you can't submit electronically, please provide me with a printed essay. I don't want essays on CDs, thumb drives, or copy-and-pasted into an email. If you must submit a hardcopy essay, please retain an electronic copy.
- Include two outside sources in your essay. These should be academic sources, not Sparknotes, Wikipedia, and the like.

- Every assignment must be completed by the due date. Any unfinished work will result in removal from the Advanced Placement class.
- Any, and I mean *any*, suggestions of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in *immediate* removal from this class. This is a college class and is meant to be rigorous and challenging. My expectations for you are high but because you're here, I'm confident that you are capable of handling both the material and the workload.
- Do quality work. If you approach this with a cavalier attitude, it will show in your work and I'll remove you from the Advanced Placement class. Being in this class isn't a right, it's a privilege.

I have a lot of great things planned for next year. Come prepared to read some extraordinary things and engage in some really good conversations. The study of English is the study of everything!

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