



TO:           **Prospective Student**  
FROM:       Mr. Verver  
DATE:        3 June 2013  
SUBJECT:     ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH

You are enrolled in next year's Junior AP English Language and Composition course. We'll discuss what "Advanced Placement" means throughout next year, but you should understand that the course is designed to engage students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Our focus for the year will be the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way grammar and the mechanics of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

The course will emphasize the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication as well as some personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context. As a college-level curriculum, its purpose is to train students to read complex texts for an understanding of how stylistic effects are achieved by writers' linguistic choices, and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with educated readers.

Because the AP course depends on the continual development of interpretive skills as students learn to write and read with increasing complexity and sophistication, we will begin work immediately when the school year begins. Indeed, you can expect an essay assignment on the first day back. To prepare for that task, you are required to do four things:

1. Complete and return the attached "Academic Contract."
2. Write an essay of no more than 500 words explaining why you want to take this course, what you hope to accomplish, and what you will contribute. Submit the essay via [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) (class/section ID: 6476407, enrollment password: verver) before midnight June 30th.
3. Come to my classroom (632) before June 17th to pick up a copy of an excerpt from Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*. You should read this passage very closely, making note of Zinn's main ideas and what he does to provoke the reader's thinking.
4. Read at least two books from the list on the back of this page during the summer.

*Have the reading completed before classes start in September, and let me assure you that you do not wish to come to class the first day unprepared. If you find these tasks daunting or difficult, you should not be taking AP English.*

Summer Reading  
Junior AP English

*Absalom, Absalom!*  
William Faulkner

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
Mark Twain

*Animal Dreams*  
Barbara Kingsolver

*At Play in the Fields of the Lord*  
Peter Matthieson

*Atlas Shrugged*  
Ayn Rand

*The Bell Jar*  
Sylvia Plath

*Birdy*  
William Wharton

*Black Boy*  
Richard Wright

*The Bonfire of the Vanities*  
Tom Wolfe

*Catch-22*  
Joseph Heller

*Catcher in the Rye*  
J. D. Salinger

*The Chosen*  
Chaim Potok

*The Color Purple*  
Alice Walker

*Fahrenheit 451*  
Ray Bradbury

*For Whom the Bell Tolls*  
Ernest Hemingway

*The Grapes of Wrath*  
John Steinbeck

*The Great Gatsby*  
F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The Handmaid's Tale*  
Margaret Atwood

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*  
Maya Angelou

*Invisible Man*  
Ralph Ellison

*The Joy Luck Club*  
Amy Tan

*The Jungle*  
Upton Sinclair

*Moby Dick*  
Herman Melville

*Moon Tiger*  
Penelope Lively

*My Antonia*  
Willa Cather

*Neuromancer*  
William Gibson

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*  
Ken Kesey

*Ordinary People*  
Judith Guest

*Shadows on the Rock*  
Willa Cather

*Slaughter House Five*  
Kurt Vonnegut

*Snow Falling on Cedars*  
David Guterson

*Snowcrash*  
Neal Stephenson

*Stranger in a Strange Land*  
Robert A. Heinlein

*Sula*  
Toni Morrison

*Summer*  
Edith Wharton

*The Sun Also Rises*  
Ernest Hemingway

*Tender is the Night*  
F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
Zora Neale Hurston

*To the Lighthouse*  
Virginia Woolf

*The World According to Garp*  
John Irving



# Cascade High School

## English Department

### Advanced Placement

#### *Academic Contract 2013-2014*

As a student in an Advanced Placement class, you are embarking upon a rigorous college-level course of study. To be successful in this course, acknowledge the following conditions and make a well-informed commitment to meet these expectations:

- You are expected to prepare for class daily. Plan on a *minimum* of five hours of homework per week for each AP course.
- You are expected to complete a large amount of outside reading, **including the summer reading assignment (see attached)**. Strong reading skills and reading ability are necessary.
- You are expected to attend regularly. This course will move at a very rapid pace, so keeping up with the class learning and regular attendance are vital.
- You are expected to fully participate in all class activities and work that is assigned. Because these courses are intended to create college-ready students, you will be expected to complete work that is not always graded. Course grades derive primarily from assessment (exams, scored essays, and the like) and not as much on formative work (assignments intended to provide skills practice), but the practice work is necessary to prepare you for the assessments.
- You are expected to be motivated to learn and to work hard. You must supply your personal motivation and inspiration to be fully successful.
- You will need a letter grade of a “C-” or better to continue on in this course. If you have a “D” or “F” at the quarter, you will be placed on academic probation and may be moved to a more appropriate placement at the semester if you do not have a “C-” or better.

***I have read and understand the expectations for success in this Honors course and I am committed to working toward success.***

Class title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email or best contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Student commitment to success in Advanced Placement English

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*Your learning and success in this rigorous course depends on your ability to manage your time. Please provide the following information demonstrating your strategy for success in this course.*

During the school year 2013-2014, I am planning to take the following Honors/AP/College in the HS courses: **(please list in all subject areas)**

1.

2.

3.

4.

Please describe the other outside commitments that you have (both classes & outside of school commitments that will demand your time):

How do you plan to manage the added demands that this course will add?

## Parent commitment to success in Advanced Placement English

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Your child's learning and success in this rigorous course requires that s/he be able to commit to a large amount of homework and keeping up with the course work. Being a good time manager and balancing activities is vital. **How will you support your child in this endeavor? Please describe.**

**This form must be submitted to Mr. Verver, room 632, by 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 14, 2013, with or without the parent signature. If you do not return this form by the deadline, we will assume that you have reconsidered and decided not to pursue this AP English course. Your schedule will be altered to reflect this decision.**