

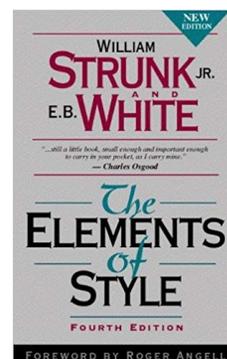
AP English Language & Composition ~ 2019 Summer Reading Assignment

Texts to Purchase:

- [*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*](#), by Ken Kesey
 - ISBN: 0141181222
- [*The Elements of Style*](#), by William Strunk and E.B. White
 - ISBN: 9780205309023

Assignment Part 1: [*The Elements of Style*](#)

We will use this text throughout the school year as a guide for grammar, composition, and writing style. Over the summer, read the book's "Introduction" and Part II: "Elementary Principles of Composition." After reading, answer the following questions in a word processing application:



1. What are the three most important principles you took from this section?
2. Based on these principles, where do you feel your writing needs to most improvement?
3. How do you plan to implement these principles into your writing so that you improve in these specific areas?
4. Compose a "Revision Checklist" of Five bullet points based on what you have learned from this section and what you would like to implement in the revision of your own writing.
 - a. Consider this question when composing your checklist: what are the essential rules/principles/techniques I should keep in mind when performing a writing task?
 - b. Put the checklist into your own words; do not simply repeat the rules from the text. The goal is to develop your own set of strategies that help you improve in the "Elementary Principles of Composition".

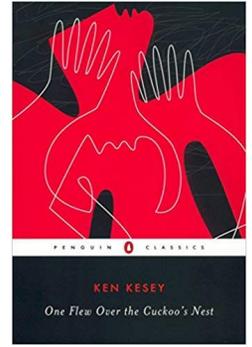
On the first day of class, submit a paper copy of your responses.

Requirements:

- Typed, Double Spaced, 12 Point Font
- All responses typed and organizes w/ the proper heading for each question
- All responses are grammatically sound, clear, and logical
- While these questions are personal in nature, they should reflect careful thought and revision

Assignment Part 2: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Over the Summer: You are to read Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Before you read, consider this definition of a **literary theme**, which comes from literary scholar Christopher Baldick: "a salient abstract idea that emerges from a literary work's treatment of its subject-matter." Themes are inherently "abstract", as they refer to ideas or concepts. One of your goals in reading this novel is to "concretely" identify and define *how* Kesey explores and develops his themes. Your concrete evidence is textual detail—words, quotations, passages, chapters—that you can physically point to and explain how the words themselves speak to Kesey's ideas.



How can you do this? Simple—annotate the text. Mark passages, write in the margins of the text, ask questions, highlight key quotations, etc. You should gather as much concrete detail as possible; you will use those details to explain Kesey's theme. During the first weeks of class, we will hold class discussions about the book; you'll be expected to share your interpretations and back up those opinions with concrete evidence. Your physical texts will also be subject to annotation checks during the first week of class.

Below is a list of broad, abstract themes in the novel. You're welcome to choose one of these and let this general concept guide your reading of the book. Or, you can allow your reading of the text to reveal a theme of your discovery.

- Mechanization and its effects on society
- Rebellion against authority
- Individuality and cultural reactions to it
- Sanity: how do we define it?
- Leadership: how do we define it?
- Violence as a means of resistance
- Healing and overcoming personal struggle

First Weeks of Class: On the second day of class, you will take a 60 minute exam designed to assess your knowledge of the novel's facts and to gauge your comprehension and understanding of its themes. Expect matching, true-false and/or multiple-choice questions about facts; multiple choice questions asking you to read a passage and interpret a scene; and short answer questions asking you to recall and comment on the novel. The test will measure your attention to the actual text of the novel and will avoid questions answerable by merely skimming study aids like Sparknotes or Schmoop.

After the test and a review of writing basics, you will write an essay in class. To prepare for that essay, you should move beyond a description of the novel's themes. You'll be asked to defend what Kesey is **saying** about one of these themes. It's one thing to say the novel is *about* mechanization and its effects on society; it's a whole different thinking task to consider *what* Kesey is arguing with regard to those effects and *how* he builds that argument in the novel. The best ways to prepare for this essay is to track a theme, gather plenty of textual support, and be ready to articulate Kesey's "point", his "argument", or his "purpose".

One final note: the novel was adapted into a film by the same name. It's a fantastic film—and I encourage you to watch it—but know that the director makes numerous artistic choices that deviate from the source text. Watching the film is by no means a replacement for reading the novel.