

## AP Literature Letter of Introduction to the Course and the Summer Assignment

**CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE REGISTERED AS A MEMBER OF THE  
AP ENGLISH LIT & COMP**

Greetings! I am writing this letter because you have registered for Advanced Placement Literature 12 program. This letter is my official welcome to the course, an overview of my philosophy, and your outside of class novel reading assignment.

**NOTE: Please read all documents regarding the class so that you have a CLEAR understanding of what this class entails.**

**ABOUT AP ENGLISH LITERATURE.** AP English Literature & Composition is a semester long course offered each semester.

**A RIGOROUS COURSE:** AP English Literature & Composition is a rigorous program designed for the high-achieving, highly-motivated college-bound student. You can expect a course that will challenge you and reward your efforts. You must have mastery of writing essays, confidence in analyzing literature, commitment to hard work, and a strong desire to participate fully in a discussion-based class. AP Literature & Composition is not a foundational class. The basics of English grammar, punctuation, and organization of an essay are prerequisites. In addition, a dedication to stretching yourself creatively is highly desired.

My experience with AP English Literature & Composition exams over the years has shown that Eden Prairie students need, quite frankly, to read more literature from what is known as the "canon" (those established works considered by many to be the "great literature" of the ages). Moreover, serious students simply need to spend more time reading. Becoming more widely read in great literature is one of the best ways to expand your vocabulary as well. You will also widen your view of the world through the vicarious experiences you receive from literature. Furthermore, you will enhance your critical skills and develop your own response to and appreciation of literature.

Thank you for your interest in this challenging and rewarding educational experience. If you have any further questions, email me. I look forward to seeing you next year!

Sincerely,

Wally

Linda Wallenberg (email [Lwallenberg@edenpr.org](mailto:Lwallenberg@edenpr.org))  
Eden Prairie High School AP English Lit and Comp 12 Instructor

# Advanced Placement English 12: Literature & Composition Syllabus

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT (see below for details):

1. **REQUIRED NOVEL FOR ALL:**

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

2. **CHOICE NOVEL--CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

OR

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

## I. Course texts

The following is a BANK of material from which the AP English 12 course content will be chosen.

- *Literature: The British Tradition* (published by Prentice Hall)
- *English Writing and Skills* (Complete Course, Coronado edition)
- *Beowulf* (translated by Seamus Heaney)
- *Grendel* by John Gardner
- Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (translated by R. M. Lumiansky) by Geoffrey Chaucer
- *Hamlet* (Signet Classic edition) by William Shakespeare
- *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard
- *Things Fall Apart* (Fawcett Crest edition) by Chinua Achebe
- *Heart of Darkness* (A Case Study in Contemporary Criticism Series edition) by Joseph Conrad
- *Arcadia* (Samuel French, Inc. edition) by Tom Stoppard

## II. Course content

The following is a BANK of material from which the AP English 12 course content will be chosen.

- Course Introduction and Philosophy, Summer Reading, and Building a Class Foundation
- Familiarization with the AP Literature and Composition:
- Phrases and clauses in composition
- Rhetorical strategies
- Practice exams
  - **Cultural Literacy Tidbit research paper**
- Poetry terminology and poems—including some classics from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (1625-1660) through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - **Literary Analysis paper (comparison of two novels)**
- Anglo-Saxon and Medieval 450 AD – 1485)
  - Historical background
  - History of the English Language
  - *Beowulf*
  - *Grendel*
  - Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*
    - **Evaluation paper: Literary Theories paper**
- English Renaissance (1485 – 1625) *Hamlet*
- Modern reaction to *Hamlet*: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
- Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* – analysis and criticism
- Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* – analysis and criticism
  - **Position paper**
- Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*
  - **Narrative paper based on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales***
- Course final: "Meeting of the Minds"

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENT

1. Summer Reading Requirement: Read & annotate two novels according to directions below).
2. Complete Journal WA 1 Quote Pondering (2 sides minimum in MLA format)
3. Complete AP Literature Short Answer Questions and Writing Sample

### 1. SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT: Read & annotate 2 novels.

“Actively read” and take “reading notes” on the following **TWO** novels. This work is due the first Friday of your first week of class. There will practice AP exams on the novels, the Literary Analysis Paper will be based on these novels, and we will continually reference them thematically throughout the course.

The following are the **TWO** required novels for AP English 12:

1. **REQUIRED NOVEL FOR ALL:**

*A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

2. **CHOICE NOVEL--CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

OR

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

## HOW TO ACCESS THE NOVELS:

You need to use actual book copies of the novels—not online versions. You may check out the two novels prior to the end of the school year in the EPHS Library OR you may choose to purchase your own copies at a local bookstore or online. You may choose any edition of these novels. Critical editions may be most helpful as they often have explanatory footnotes or endnotes.

Regardless if you use a school copy or buy your own copies, you will be required to "actively read" the texts (see below). Many college professors require evidence of "active reading" in texts. This means making personal notes in the margins of your books or taking separate reading notes.

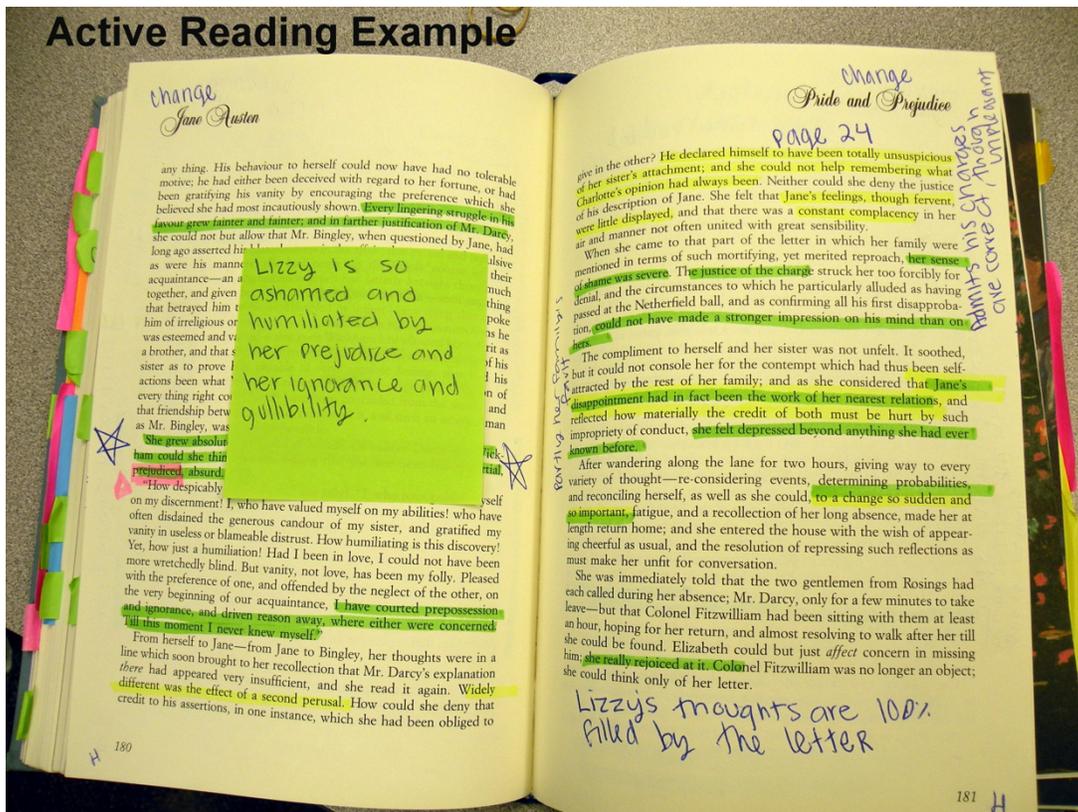
## ACTIVELY READING THE NOVELS:

You must actively read the **TWO** texts by making notes in the book copies OR take separate reading notes. You may not merely read the novels online. This “active reading” includes some or all of the following: recording questions, making connections, looking for symbols, tracking plot structure and character development, as well as identifying major themes. The grading rubrics for this active reading outline the specific requirements. Look on the following pages in this document to view these rubrics. Expect that your first AP practice essay exams will be based on the novels you read. Later in the term you will write a paper based on these texts, so it will be invaluable for you to have the active reading and reading notes to refresh your memory.

## What is “Active Reading”?

The Goal of Active Reading: To own what you read. The objectives:

- To have ideas and opinions about a reading;
- To retrieve information quickly;
- To organize information from the reading;
- To increase comprehension, vocabulary, analytical and evaluation skills, links with what a reader already knows, long term memory;
- To improve working knowledge of the literal aspects of a work;
- To allow readers to deepen original ideas;
- To help the reader inductively discover the meaning of a work and to have stated it in his own words;
- To find the purpose the author had in writing the work;
- To provide ideas and questions for class discussion;
- To have a “conversation” with an author
- To think as one reads



## HERE'S HOW TO DO THIS “ACTIVE READING”:

Generally, for Active Reading of **passages**, highlight, box, star, code, translate, paraphrase, summarize over or beside lines, sentences, and passages. On **pages**, write notes in margins, on bottoms, tops, or in corners and/or add post it notes to accommodate reader's notes. On **end flaps**, create titled lists and categories of information and collect information under these categories with quoted, key words from passages and the page number next to the quoted word (fuller notes should be made on the entire quote in the text itself)

## HERE'S HOW (IN MORE DETAIL)

- Analyze, evaluate, speculate about the **title** before beginning to read and then come back to the title after reading and summarize its relevance – always write a sentence or so explaining its relevance to the theme or thesis of the story/article;
- Examine **chapter or section titles or headings** before, during, and after reading; Identify and comment on the **narration** – 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person, why? Omniscient, dramatic, participating – why?

Present tense? Past tense? Why? Formal or informal? Educated or not – why? Keep a section in the front of the book to add to a growing understanding of the narration, point of view, tone, and mood of the piece. Decide and write the author’s purpose for this narrative choice.

- Analyze the **narrator as a character**, even in nonfiction works – decide and comment on why he is reliable and unreliable.
- Highlight or underline **important ideas**;
- Write **parallel lines** to the side of passages too long to highlight but which need emphasis;
- **Star** ideas of utmost importance;
- Circle and define unfamiliar **vocabulary words** or ones with archaic or unusual meanings;
- Circle, box, or **color-code** with a highlighter groups or series of words that work together to develop an image, motif, theme, character, main idea, or some other element.
- Place post it notes as markers at the edge of page with a note as to the significance of that page;
- Write **analytical notes, paraphrases, ideas in the margins** that will help the reader remember thoughts about the content of the page;
- Place a **post it note** on the page to write summaries, paraphrases, comments, analyses that will not fit in the margins;
- Write key words that identify a symbol, image, or other important idea in the **upper outside corner of pages** so that when the reader flips through the book, he easily sees what significant idea, etc, is on the page and which has been thoroughly noted in the text of the page;
- Start **cross-referenced lists on the front and back pages** (or add larger post-it notes) – wherever there is space that list characters names, themes, images, metaphors, symbols, etc. For each, quote a key word and write the page number next to it. Cross-reference by highlighting the information on the actual page of text with more in-depth comments, etc.
- **Color code various elements of fiction**, tropes, images – what ever needs to be identified, collected, and traced throughout the book and then create a legend on the front flap of the book;
- **Cross reference images, motifs, recurring important ideas**, etc. Start a list on an end flap that gives a title to the group, e.g., “Christian Imagery” pp. 6, 9,15, 80, 210, etc. On each page highlight and comment on the example itself.
- **Comment in the margins – react personally**, agree, disagree, compare or contrast to previous knowledge/ another book / ideas;
- **Predict** what might happen;
- **Speculate** – “What if the character had done...?” “What if the writer had been [different in some way]?”
- Identify, highlight, and comment on all explicit and implicit references to the **themes** or theses of the writing.
- **Paraphrase** all confusing poetic sentences, prose sentences, or passages.
- **Summarize** (always in your own words) paragraphs, passages, sections, chapters, etc., to make sure the text is really understood;
- **Fold pages** in certain ways to code important parts of the book –



## **HERE ARE SOME REMINDERS**

- Highlight sparingly – coloring the entire reading does not help important information to stand out;
- Cross reference – use end flaps to gather numerous page numbers with examples of the same technique or idea
- Create individual coding systems that work for the reader
- Remind oneself that active reading is a reader’s dialogue with the author;
- Standardize where various kinds of notes appear (bottom right, top right, etc.) so that a reader can easily retrieve information of a certain kind, i.e., plot summaries are under chapter headings or references to a character’s personality are at the bottom right of pages or highlighted in yellow, etc.
- Outlines, summaries, paraphrases are in the reader’s own words.

**For more information on Active Reading, you may want to read Mortimer J. Adler’s essay “How To Mark A Book.”** From *The Saturday Review of Literature*, July 6, 1940, pp. 11-12 Copyright 1940, The Sat. Review Co., Inc.; renewed 1967 Sat. Review, Inc.

**RUBRIC--Evaluation for AP Lit & Comp SUMMER ACTIVE READING**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Due date: first Friday of the first week of class.

| <p><b><i>REQUIRED NOVEL FOR ALL:</i></b><br/> <b><i>A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens</i></b></p>   | <p><b>SCORES</b></p>   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>In-text margin notes and marking:</b></p> <p>As you read, keep a record of the following—storyline, key events, characters, changes in character, key quotations, new/important vocabulary, symbols, imagery. Do this by highlighting, color coding, underlining, writing notes in margins, on bottoms, tops, or in corners of pages, and/or adding post it notes to accommodate your notes. etc.</p> | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/>           _____/8</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/>           _____/8</p> |
| <p><b>On end flaps or on separate sheets of paper:</b></p> <p>Create titled lists of character names, symbols, significant quotations, motifs, themes, and vocabulary. Be sure to include page numbers on your lists</p>  | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/>           _____/7</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/>           _____/7</p> |
| <p><b>In-text personal commentary:</b></p> <p>As you read, keep a record of the following—agree, disagree, compare or contrast to previous knowledge/ another book / ideas; write questions about what is not understood, predictions of what might happen “What if the character had done...?”</p>   | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/>           _____/5</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/>           _____/5</p> |
| <p><b>Student comments:</b></p>   | <p>_____ /20</p>   |

**CHOICE NOVEL:** Choose either *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving OR *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

**Due date:** first Friday of the first week of class.

| <i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i><br>by John Irving   | SCORES   | <i>Pride and Prejudice</i><br>by Jane Austen   | SCORES   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>In-text margin notes and marking:</b><br/>As you read, keep a record of the following—storyline, key events, characters, changes in character, key quotations, new/important vocabulary, symbols, imagery. Do this by highlighting, color coding, underlining, writing notes in margins, on bottoms, tops, or in corners of pages, and/or adding post it notes to accommodate your notes. etc.</p> | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/><br/>_____/8</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/><br/>_____/8</p> | <p><b>In-text margin notes and marking:</b> As you read, keep a record of the following—storyline, key events, characters, changes in character, key quotations, new/important vocabulary, symbols, imagery. Do this by highlighting, color coding, underlining, writing notes in margins, on bottoms, tops, or in corners of pages, and/or adding post it notes to accommodate your notes. etc.</p> | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/><br/>_____/8</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/><br/>_____/8</p> |
| <p><b>On end flaps or on separate sheets of paper:</b> create titled lists of character names, symbols, significant quotations, motifs, themes, and vocabulary. Be sure to include page numbers on your lists.</p>   | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/><br/>_____/7</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/><br/>_____/7</p> | <p><b>On end flaps or on separate sheets of paper:</b> create titled lists of character names, symbols, significant quotations, motifs, themes, and vocabulary. Be sure to include page numbers on your lists</p>  | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/><br/>_____/7</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/><br/>_____/7</p> |
| <p><b>In-text personal commentary:</b><br/>As you read, keep a record of the following—agree, disagree, compare or contrast to previous knowledge/ another book / ideas; write questions about what is not understood, predictions of what might happen “What if the character had done...?”</p>   | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/><br/>_____/5</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/><br/>_____/5</p> | <p><b>In-text personal commentary:</b><br/>As you read, keep a record of the following—agree, disagree, compare or contrast to previous knowledge/ another book / ideas; write questions about what is not understood, predictions of what might happen “What if the character had done...?”</p>   | <p><b>Student self score:</b><br/><br/>_____/5</p> <p><b>teacher score:</b><br/><br/>_____/5</p> |
| <p><b>Student comments:</b></p>  | <p>_____/20</p>  | <p><b>Student comments:</b></p>  | <p>_____/20</p>  |

**NOTE:** Your annotated novels as well as the following journal is due the first Friday of the first week of your AP Lit. course.

## **Do JOURNAL ENTRY WA#1: QUOTE PONDERING**

This journal entry must be at least two double-spaced typed pages (or two single-spaced pages of notebook paper). Do NOT put the traditional MLA heading at the top of your journal. Your name, AP Lit, and the date is what you need to put on the top as well as the heading "WA#1 Quote Pondering." You must type all journals. Start a file for them on your computer.

Because this is a course which relies heavily on your input and willingness to jump into discussion, let's start with your personal reaction to one of the following quotations. Choose the quote below that strikes/interests you most. Discuss what you think the quotation means literally, what it might say about society, and what personal connections you might draw from your own experiences with reading or in your own life. Finally, it is expected that you use any applicable/relevant examples that come to mind from the summer reading texts to exemplify the main points you are making in your discussion. Before you start, be sure to read the suggested questions/ideas for consideration listed further down below the quotes.

### **SIDE ONE: CHOOSE ONE OF THESE REQUIRED QUOTES:**

#### **QUOTE 1:**

*The whole point of literature is to have sympathies, imaginative relationships with people who are different from one's self. --Irving Howe*

#### **FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:**

"The whole point"--really? What other points might there be? What books have touched you, made you feel empathy, changed you? Were they usually books assigned in school or those you read at home? What differences were there between you and the characters whose stories most affected you? Were the two of you, in retrospect, more alike than different?

#### **QUOTE 2:**

*When Power leads man towards arrogance, literature reminds him of his limitations. When Power narrows the area of man's concern, literature reminds him of his richness and diversity of existence. When Power corrupts, literature cleanses. --John F. Kennedy*

#### **FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:**

Why "arrogance"? why "corrupts"? why "cleanses"? what connotations/possibilities are there? Did the fact that Kennedy wrote this quote have any impact on you? Negatively? Positively?

#### **QUOTE 3:**

*[ . . . ] the universe focuses those who live in it to understand it. Those creatures who find everyday experience a muddled jumble of events with no predictability, no regularity, are in grave peril. The universe belongs to those who, at least to some degree, have figured it out. --Carl Sagan*

#### **FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:**

The "universe"? why "creatures"? why "grave peril"? why "belongs"?

#### **QUOTE 4:**

*On this day he (the Virginian) was bidding her farewell before undertaking the most important trust which Judge Henry had yet given him. For this journey she had provided him with Sir Walter Scott's Kenilworth. Shakespeare he had returned to her. He had bought Shakespeare for himself. "As soon as I got used to readin' it," he had told her, "I knowed for certain that I liked readin' for enjoyment."* --Owen Wister

#### **FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:**

Why the incorrect grammar? How did that color impressions of him? Why did he buy Shakespeare? Enjoyment?

#### **QUOTE 5:**

*Readers may be divided into four classes:*

- 1. Sponges, who absorb all they read and return it nearly in the same state, only a little dirtied.*
  - 2. Sand-glasses, who retain nothing and are content to get through a book for the sake of getting through the time.*
  - 3. Strain-bags, who retain merely the drags of what they read.*
  - 4. Mogul diamonds, equally rare and valuable, who profit by what they read, and enable others to profit by it also.*
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

#### **FURTHER IDEAS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING ABOUT THIS QUOTE:**

Why "a little dirtied"? connotations of "strain-bags" and "drags"? Mogul diamonds? Why "mogul"?

## **SIDE TWO: YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE QUOTES**

**After you have completed your discussion on one of the required quotes, continue the journal with a a discussion of three of your all-time favorite quotes.**

**Jot down the first quote and then say something about why you chose this quote. Do this for each of the three quotes.**

**Expand your discussion of the quotes to make sure you have filled at least an entire page. Maybe you want to share why they are meaningful to you, how they apply to your life, and/or how you ran across them.**

# AP Lit Short Answer Questions and Writing

## Sample

**NOTE: Completing these questions is required for all juniors registered for AP English 12: Literature & Composition.** These questions will be an important sample and indicator of your writing preparedness for this AP class.

**\*Be sure to print these questions and turn them in directly to Ms. Wallenberg or email them to [Lwallenberg@edenpr.org](mailto:Lwallenberg@edenpr.org) by the first Friday of your first week of class.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSELOR: \_\_\_\_\_ CONNECTIONS TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please complete and return these AP Lit. Short Answer Questions directly to Ms. Wallenberg in room 269 in the English department **on or before the Friday of the first week of class.**
2. Summer reading of three novels, the annotation of these works, and the work associated with this reading is a course requirement. Turning in these **two** annotated novels and the work associated with the reading is also due in Ms. Wallenberg's room 269 in the English department **on or before the Friday of the first week of class.**

A separate document outlines the novel titles as well as a description of the work associated with this reading and a rubric used to evaluate your work.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:**

1. List all the English classes you have taken in grades 9-11, the instructors, and the grades you received in each course.

| Grade | Course Title   | Instructor | Final Grade |
|-------|--|------------|-------------|
| 9     | <i>English 9 or Honors English 9 (Which?)</i>            |            |             |
| 10    | <i>English 10 or Honors Eng 10 or AP Sem 10 (Which?)</i> |            |             |
| 11    | <i>AP Lang. &amp; Comp</i>                               |            |             |
| 11    | Other:   |            |             |
| 11    | Other:   |            |             |
| 12    | Other:   |            |             |

2. Which of your previous English courses did you find most valuable and why?

3. Why do you think you would be an excellent class member of AP Literature & Composition? Comment on your strengths as a writer and as a contributor to a discussion-based class and anything else of relevance.

4. Comment on your ability to resolve differences and disagreements in an academic setting. (For example, how do you handle criticism of your work?)

5. In all of the reading you have done during your high school years (either assigned as required reading or reading you have done on your own), which author and work has influenced you the most and why?

6. Read the article entitled “The Relationship of Reading and Writing” by Ann B. Dobie from her book *Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism*. This is a book we will be using periodically throughout our course. Find the link to this article on the AP Literature section of the Summer Assignments webpage.

Annotate the article as you read—especially looking for your most significant points of interest. In the space provided below, discuss several “take-aways” from the article that strike you as being the most beneficial, illuminating, or concerning.

6. **WRITING SAMPLE:** If you could make one change in your life, in school, or in society in general, what would it be? Be sure to explain the change, why you would make it, and what effect that change would have. *Type at least two sides of a page double-spaced in MLA format.* This should be a sample of your **best** writing.

Lastname 1

Firstname Lastname

Ms. Wallenberg

AP Literature

Date

Creative Title Goes Here

Lastname 2

*Thank you!*

**\*Be sure to print these questions and turn them in directly to Ms. Wallenberg or email them to [Lwallenberg@edenpr.org](mailto:Lwallenberg@edenpr.org) by the first Friday of your first week of class.**