

Hi, All!

In AP English III (also known as AP Lang), you will continue the study of literature, drama, poetry, and writing - but with an added element: rhetoric. In analyzing non-fiction works for techniques writers use to make their observations, recollections, or points of persuasion come alive, you'll become more skilled at close reading and skilled writing. Before we get into rhetoric, we are going to start with a summer assignment on one piece of fiction and one piece of nonfiction.

The Crucible is a fictional piece. However, understanding the historical context and climate of the time is vital to fully grasping the meaning of the work. So, you will need to read the background information provided below prior to beginning your reading of the novel and play. In *The Crucible*, characters commit grave sins in the eyes of their societies, and they must find ways to deal with their situations.

In Cold Blood is considered the first, "nonfiction novel." It is a nonfiction piece, but Capote incorporated elements of fiction writing to enhance the narrative. It is about four murders committed in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, in 1959. The book was published in 1966. He did meticulous research and conducted hours upon hours of interviews with everyone involved.

You will read / annotate (using the topics listed for each individual work) *The Crucible* and *In Cold Blood*. When you return to school, you will take a quiz/test over the works on day one, and do some writing over the books the first week.

If you have any questions during this process, don't hesitate to reach out to us: jbalistreri@stasaints.net or jnigrin@stasaints.net.

Important Notes:

- Purchase a hard copy of *In Cold Blood* and *The Crucible* and put your name in them. No E-books.
- While reading, add annotations directly on the pages of your works; do not use sticky notes! Make sure to have ample references from the beginning, middle, and end of the work. Directions are below.
- This is **independent work**. Do not work with a partner or group. Do not share your work / provide examples to your peers. If there are questions, email either one of us.
- You will turn in your annotations on the first day of class.

Task 1: In Cold Blood - Essential Questions / Annotation Requirements

As you read, highlight references that you feel are tied to the topics listed below. Please note, each topic has a specific highlighter color associated with it; you must use the correct highlighter color! The topics are as follows:

1. The American Dream (highlight in orange)
2. Christianity (highlight in pink)
3. The consequences of crime (highlight in yellow)
4. Nature vs. nurture (highlight in green)
5. Human perceptions and trauma (highlight in light blue)
6. What is justice? (highlight in light purple)

After you highlight the information, you should then write a note in pen along the margin; this note should explain the relevance of the highlighted material as it pertains to the topic. A note should be five or more words that offer something substantial in meaning. You could also offer your own analysis and/or observations of the text. Avoid general statements like "This is an example of plot." You need to explain the highlighted text's relevance through analysis and explanation. The annotations need to be throughout the novel - from the beginning, the middle, and the end of the novel.

There should be fifty or more highlights once you are finished. The quality of the highlights will be

assessed, so make sure to be thoughtful and selective in your work.

Task 2: *The Crucible* - Essential Questions / Annotation Requirements

Please follow the same instructions as the ones provided for *In Cold Blood*. However, you will be annotating for different topics. The topics you should annotate for in *The Crucible* are:

1. Effects of Fear / Mass Hysteria (highlight in orange)
2. Integrity and Name (Legacy) (highlight in pink)
3. The Corruption of Justice (highlight in yellow)
4. The Individual vs. Authority (highlight in green)
5. Deception and Guilt (highlight in light blue)
6. Puritan Culture / Societal Norms (highlight in light purple)

There should be thirty or more highlights once you are finished. The quality of the highlights will be assessed, so make sure to be thoughtful and selective in your work.

Before you begin the play, read the background information provided here: [Crucible Background.pdf](#)

Using previous assignments/projects/essays: You are not allowed to use previously submitted material for any course you have or are currently taking.

Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 for the assignment / test and a disciplinary referral.