

AP English Language and Composition

Summer 2017 Assignments

Although challenging, AP English Language and Composition is a rewarding course, one designed for those students who enjoy reading and writing, two skills necessary for success in both academics and the world.

All incoming AP English Language and Composition students are required to complete the following summer assignments.

Reading

Read *O Pioneers* by Willa Cather, Genesis 37-50 in the King James Version (not the New King James!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!), and “Pioneers! O Pioneers” by Walt Whitman (separate handout and also available on line).

Read actively. Annotate the Cather novel and the Whitman poem. Take notes on the Genesis excerpt.

Essay

Respond to the following in a well-developed essay of three to four pages.

Compare/Contrast *My Antonia* with the Genesis 37-50 excerpt. Consider the land, characterization, and anything else apropos. Give specific examples from both texts to support your thesis. Address the question and avoid unnecessary plot summary. Employ MLA format throughout. **Carefully follow the manuscript guidelines and the submission process given below!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** The essay counts seventy-percent of the summer assignment grade. The two summer writing assignments will be averaged for one writing grade for the first quarter. Writing counts fifty percent of each quarter's grade.

Manuscript Guidelines for the Comparison/Contrast Essay (*O Pioneers* and the King James Bible Excerpt)

1. Have one page of handwritten prewriting. Use black or blue ink.
2. Type your essay (black ink) using Times New Roman and double space throughout.
3. Employ MLA format throughout the entire essay. Check format by referring to the Purdue University website (OWL) or *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Seventh Edition.
4. Make certain you have a separate works-cited page.
5. Have a separate title page that follows the format given on the separate page.
6. Use the MLA heading for the second and subsequent pages of the essay (i.e. last name and page number in the upper right-hand corner, one inch from the top and side). Then double space and resume your essay.
7. The works-cited page is also numbered using the MLA format delineated in #6. Again, check MLA format for details for typing the individual works-cited entries.
8. Remember, your numbering begins with the first page of essay text, **not** with the title page!!!
9. Staple your work with the essay on top, the prewriting below that, and the prompt handout on the bottom. **Note: Failure to staple work will result in a five-point grade deduction for the essay!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Essay Title

Name

AP English Language and Composition

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Comparison/Contrast Essay

Submission Process

1. The assignment must be submitted no later than **Wednesday, August 30**, twelve noon. Place both assignments (**stapled separately!!!!!!**) in a large manila envelope. Write your name and AP English Language Assignment in large letters on the outside of the envelope. Bring the envelope to the main office (building 1) of Timothy Christian School. You may also choose to mail it to TCS: 2008 Ethel Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854. If you mail the assignment, make certain you put proper postage on the envelope and allow sufficient “travel time.” No e-mailed assignments!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2. **Plan ahead to make certain you submit your work by the due date!!!!!! No exceptions for travel, summer programs, and similar commitments. Make certain also that your computer and printer are working!!!!!! Budget your time!!!!!!**

3. In addition to submitting the hard copies of the assignment, you must also post both of them on Turn It In. Your enrollment password is tcs777. For class ID, use either of the following numbers: 15015395 or 15015405. The site opens for posting on July 2 and closes on August 30 at 8 a.m. Any assignment not posted by that time will receive a ten-point grade deduction.

4. **Plagiarism:** As the TCS Student Handbook states, “Honesty and integrity are hallmarks of a Christian life. We take academic integrity seriously” (26). Therefore, make certain that you cite where necessary. Citing is not limited to direct quotations. You must also cite paraphrases and any idea unique to a particular writer. Remember also to use MLA format for all citations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Grammar Study

Within the first week of school, the class will take a comprehensive grammar test. To prepare for the test, study the items listed below. Know both definitions and application.

clauses, subordination/coordination, sentence-structure types, phrases, predicate nominative, predicate adjective, grammatical parallelism, sentence fragments, run-on sentences, case forms of verbs, comma usage, semicolons, colons, connotation and denotation, active and passive voices, faulty predication, syntax, moods of verbs, pronoun and antecedent agreement, subject and verb agreement, rewriting passages to avoid “to be” verbs

Recommended Grammar Resources: I recommend that you purchase both a grammar book that explains the basics (e.g. Warriner’s *English Grammar and Composition Complete Course* and *The Grammar Bible*) and *The Elements of Style* (William Strunk and E.B. White).

Summer Grammar Tutoring (Highly Recommended)

I will be conducting a two-hour session on both Tuesday, August 15 and Thursday, August 24 from 1 till 3 p.m. This is the same class offered two different times to accommodate possible scheduling conflicts. This intensive session will cover the points listed above to help better prepare students for the September grammar test and help lay the grammatical foundation needed for AP English.

The cost of the session is \$100, payable by check or money order to Grammar Guy, LLC. You may register by e-mailing me (jbeau3p@aol.com) by August 8 for the August 15 session and August 17 for the August 24 session. A student may bring his/her check to the particular session.

Questions on Walt Whitman Poem (“Pioneers! O Pioneers!”)

On separate paper, respond to each of the following in complete sentences. Where necessary, use quotations from the Whitman poem to support and cite by line number. Type your responses using Times New Roman. Double-space within questions, leave four spaces between separate questions, and number each question. Use the two-line heading given on the separate page. You do not need a separate title page for these questions. This writing assignment counts thirty percent of the summer assignment grade.

1. What technique does the poet use with such phrases as “my tan-faced children,” “Pioneers! O Pioneers!” and “O restless, restless race!”?
2. What literary technique does Whitman use in stanza 2, line 2?
3. Describe the tone of stanza 5.
4. Explain the significance of the use of “blood” in stanza 8.
5. What literary technique does Walt Whitman use in stanza 14, line 1?
6. Why would “all the pulses of the world/Beat for us”? (See stanza 14.)

7. Do “the righteous and the wicked” (stanza 16, line 2) seem to be the righteous and wicked described in the Bible? Why or why not?

8. Is the “curious trio” (stanza 17, line 2) a biblical idea? Explain.

9. Discuss the significance of the mention of the “orbs,” “suns,” “planets,” and “mystic nights” in stanza 18. Does this stanza express a Biblical idea? Explain.

10. Why is the trumpet significant? See stanza 25.

11. Are the pioneers of the Whitman poem different from or similar to the pioneers of Cather’s novel? Elaborate.

Sample Two-line Heading for Questions on Whitman Poem

Name

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Whitman Poem Questions

Leave four spaces and then begin responding to questions.

Use the MLA heading for the second and subsequent pages.

