

Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology

Honors English IV: Literature and Composition Instructors for 2017-2018 School Year:

Course Information

Honors English IV will cover British Literature and the culminating assignments of the Graduation Project. Senior year can be very demanding, and as a result, we want you to jump start your senior year by working on your college essay. During the summer, you will have two assignments to complete. If you have any questions about the assignment during the summer, please do not hesitate to contact your English teacher.

Assignment #1: College Essay

The draft of the college essay is due emailed to your English IV teacher by 11:59 on Friday, August 31. Essays can be emailed to us during the summer for feedback and early submission. Essays will only be accepted electronically.

Before you begin your essay, please read the article 10 Tips for Writing the College Application Essay by Jeremy S. Hyman and Lynn F. Jacobs. The article can be found at the following link: <http://bit.ly/N68pQ1>. Also, you may want to visit John Hopkins University website on College Essays that work to read examples of essays and comments from admission officers on what stands out about a college essay. <https://apply.jhu.edu/apply/essays-that-worked/>

Once you have read the article and visited John Hopkins University site, select a topic from the list below or you may use a topic from a specific college application that you are interested in applying. Essays should be at least 550-650 words on a topic of your choice or on an essay from a college application (word count should be indicated on the essay). If you are using a topic from a college application, please type the prompt at the top of the document and indicate the college. If you are using a prompt from below, indicate the prompt number. Essays should be emailed to your teacher. (Note: these essays come from the Common Application essay prompts.)

1. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
3. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
4. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. [Revised]
5. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
6. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
7. Prompt from a college application.

Assignment #2: Novel

The draft of the college essay is due emailed to your English IV teacher by 11:59 on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Essays can be emailed to your English teacher during the summer for feedback and early submission. Essays will only be accepted electronically.

Choose ONE of the following books to read and complete the writing assignment below.

1. *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines
2. *1984* by George Orwell
 - Pdf of the text
<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B4HO5r4WOpdzTFZtT3k3NXRCdnM/edit>

After reading your book of choice, choose **four excerpts** (should be a separate excerpt for each prompt) from the novel that focus on the following four narrative elements: setting, character, conflict, and theme. Then, respond to each of the following questions. Your responses should be at least 8 sentences in length and they should fully answer all parts of the question. Remember, each prompt should use a separate excerpt.

1. How does the author use the setting to impact the events of the plot? In your response be sure to address the following
 1. Summary of the setting used in the excerpt.
 2. Explanation of how the setting contributes to the events that take place in the excerpt and the overall novel.
2. How does the author develop a character in the selected excerpt? In your response be sure to address the following:
 1. What type of character are discussed in the excerpt? (round, flat, dynamic, static, etc.)
 2. What information (directly and indirectly) are we given on the character?
 3. How is the information about the character revealed?
3. What is the main conflict in the novel and how can we see this in the excerpt you provided? In your response be sure to include the following:
 1. Is the conflict internal or external?
 2. How are the characters in the text impacted by the conflict?
 3. Why is this conflict important to the development of the text?
4. What is the main theme expressed in the novel that can be seen in the excerpt you selected? *Remember that theme is an overall meaning (moral/value) that can be seen outside of a text. In your response be sure to include the following:
 1. What is the author telling us about life?
 2. What evidence from the text helped you to determine this was the theme of the

Directions for Submission

- All work must be typed, 12 font, Times New Roman, double space.
- Answers should identify the page numbers for the excerpt you are discussing or a copy of the excerpt embedded in the document.
- All work will be submitted to Turnitin.com at a later date to verify that the work submitted is original.
- This assignment will count as **a formal grade** in your English class.

During this school year, we will be exploring British Literature from early Anglo-Saxon time period to Modern times. The below readings are some of the material that will be covered during the semester:

Short Stories:

"A Haunted House" by Virginia Woolf
"Shooting an Elephant" by George Orwell
"Stone Mattress" by Margaret Atwood
"Araby" by James Joyce

Novels/ Plays:

Beowulf by the Beowulf poet
The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
Macbeth by Shakespeare
Othello by Shakespeare

Graduation Project

SERVICE LEARNING

What is the difference between a Service Learning Experience and a Product?

1. **Service Learning (SLE):** It is an experience (whether job shadowing, volunteering, interning, teaching or developing a program to meet a community need) in which the student is learning while serving others.
2. **Product:** Is a tangible creation based on the research topic that impacts a targeted audience in some way. It is not created in isolation but is strategically formulated in order to meet a need in one's community, whether at a student's class, school, neighborhood, city or globally.

When considering picking a Service Learning Project, students should think about the following:

- What skills, connections and opportunities do I already have to make an impact on others?
- What do I enjoy doing? Where could I do this?
- What organizations, businesses and entities are already working to address my topic and how can I help them?

SLE must relate to your JUNIOR EXIT PAPER topic!

TYPES OF SLE

1. Physical experiences – build or make something; such as a computer program, a special engine or prototype for temporary housing.
2. Written product – write advertisements for volunteer opportunities, write a proposal to limit waste production for a specific company, write a petition to solicit public response and send it to the government.
3. Performance – Mentor a performance with disabled actors, create a show that incorporates the community issue and perform to build public awareness.
4. Conduct a teaching or leadership experience – teach a middle school or elementary class a series of lessons or a skill; for example, tutor a math skill, read for a class or coach a little league team. Teach elders how to use the internet, Skype, etc. Establish a community garden, and teach people how to tend it.
5. Physical experience- Teach someone how to exercise, work with a buddy to prepare for Special Olympics, or lead a group on an ecological tour of the community and map resources.
6. Career-related project – complete a service learning experience in a professional area that you wish to pursue; for example, volunteer your time at a local office or hospital, shelter, park, historic site, or science center.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO BEGIN MY PRODUCT OVER THE SUMMER?

- Email an English IV teacher if you have any questions.
- Keep a detailed time log of your volunteer/work hours including: date, time, detailed description of what you did, and a witness' signature.
- If you volunteer get a supervisor to sign copy of a letter detailing what you did and when.
- Additionally save any and all evidence of your work as documentation. Documentation includes: pictures, sketches, lists, samples, emails, receipts, written reflections, videos etc. •