



HOLY SPIRIT
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Assignments

Academic Year: 2023-2024

Course Information

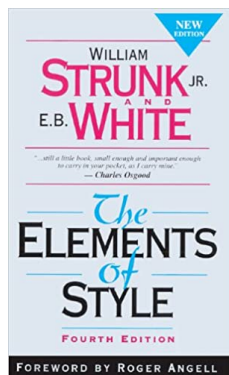
Department: English

Contact: David Labbe, dlabbe@holyspiritprep.org

Class Description: The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who can compose for a variety of purposes. Through their writing and reading in this course, students will become aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing. The course aims to guide students in defining and recognizing the techniques applied to non-fiction and rhetorical writings and to prepare students for the AP English Language Exam.

Due dates for the following TWO assignments: The first day of school

Summer Assignment #1



Text: *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E.B. White (ISBN 978-0-205-30902-3)

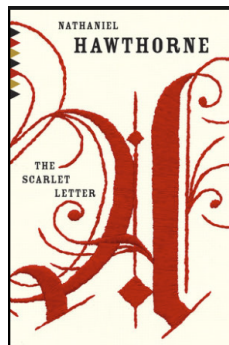
Assignment: **I suggest you complete this assignment first as the content you learn from this reading will assist you in completing the second assignment.**

1. Read *The Elements of Style -4th edition* in its entirety (including forward and introduction). AP Language and Composition is a course on language and writing. By signing up for this course, you indicate that you have achieved competency at or above grade level in grammar, usage, mechanics, and sentence structure. This little book will help you review and improve any weaknesses that you may have.
2. As you read, outline the contents of the chapters. The link below will provide you with expectations for your outlining. Take meaningful notes on the concepts and terms unfamiliar to you. Pay particular attention to sections 2 and 5. This assignment can be completed in a notebook or on loose-leaf paper.

Page length: At minimum 5 pages of notes.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/reverse_outlining.html

Summer Assignment #2



Text: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (ISBN)

Assignment:

1. In order to promote active reading, please annotate the text as you read *The Scarlet Letter* (including the introductory section called “The Custom House”). See notes below on how to annotate a text. You must comment at least once every 5 pages to receive full credit.
2. As you read, pay attention to Hawthorne’s use of language. What elements of language did he use? What strategies did he use to present the purpose and themes? How does he create a unique tone?

American novelist and literary critic, Henry James, has described *The Scarlet Letter* as “the finest piece of imaginative writing yet put forth in this country.” *The Scarlet Letter* is viewed as one of American’s early novels. James finds *The Scarlet Letter* to be “absolutely American” and describes the national “satisfaction” felt after its publication, “America having produced a novel that belonged to literature.” How “American” is *The Scarlet Letter*? What elements of the writing makes this novel “American”?

Write an essay on the validity of James’ assertion, using examples from your reading, observations, or experience to support your position.

Page length: 3 pages

Instructions for Annotating a Text

Annotation is a key component of close reading. Since we will annotate texts all year, you need to develop a system that works for you (within the following guidelines). Effective annotating is both economical and consistent. The techniques are almost limitless, so please feel free to use any combination of the following:

How to Annotate:

- Make brief comments in the margins. Use any white space available - inside cover, random blank pages
- Make brief comments between or within lines of the text. Do not be afraid to mark within the text itself. In fact, you must.
- Circle or put boxes, triangles, or clouds around words or phrases.
- Use abbreviations or symbols - brackets, stars, exclamation points, question marks, numbers, etc.
- Connect words, phrases, ideas, circles, boxes, etc. with lines or arrows.
- Underline or highlight – CAUTION: Use these methods sparingly. Underline only a few words. Always combine with another method such as comment. Never underline an entire passage. Doing so takes too much time and loses effectiveness. If you wish to mark an entire paragraph or passage, draw a line down the margin or use brackets. You must comment on these passages.
- Use post-it notes only if you have exhausted all available space (unlikely).

What to annotate:

- Have a conversation with the text. Talk back to it.
- Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result?
- Comment on something that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses, aggravates, etc.
- Comment on lines / quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Summarize key events. Make predictions.
- Note if you experience an epiphany.
- Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.
- Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can.
 - effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - point of view / effect reliability of narrator
 - repetition of words, phrases, actions, events - patterns motifs or cluster ideas
 - narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events tone / mood
 - contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts themes/irony/imagery/ symbols
 - allusions setting / historical period
 - any other figure of speech or literary device

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. It will help you contemplate and comprehend the text even better.