AP English Language and Composition  
Instructor: Ms. Estrella Carrillo  
Summer Assignment

By taking 11 AP Language and Composition, students will learn the modes of discourse through reading fiction and nonfiction, and of course, writing essays. This next year, a large focus will be on the Synthesis Essay Question portion for the AP exam. The reading of *The Scarlet Letter* will introduce you to nineteenth century paradigms as well as archaic diction and syntax. *Othello* will expose you to a variety of persuasive techniques that will be studied throughout the year. Although vastly different in setting and plot, both works convey similar concerns with societal issues. The corresponding research that you will do will help you start thinking about synthesizing a variety of material based on theme and content.

I. Do a close reading of the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and the play *Othello* by William Shakespeare. *The Scarlet Letter* can be checked out to you by the school, but you are strongly encouraged to purchase your own copy so that you can take notes, highlight, and mark your novels. Both works are entirely available online. *The Scarlet Letter* can be found at:

http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Nathaniel_Hawthorne/The_Scarlet_Letter

While *Othello* can be found at:

http://www.william-shakespeare.info/act1-script-text-othello.htm

II. Annotate areas that reflect specific themes of the novel, are emblematic of characterization, or paradigms of the time period. These will be discussed in class. Your annotation can be done as post it notes in the work or typed on a separate piece of paper.

III. Social Issues chart: On the surface, the novels seem to only be about specific characters, but authors often create a microcosm of society in order to provide commentary about that society. In a Microsoft Word document, make a three columned chart. The first column will list five characters from each work, the second column will explain the issue(s) each one faces with examples from the work, and the third will detail what comments the authors could be making about each issue, again with examples from the work. Provide page numbers that support your analysis. For example, I’m sure you remember *Of Mice and Men*. One of the novel’s issues concerns dealing with someone who is mentally challenged in some way. Steinbeck’s comment might have been that there were no adequate facilities to help with such people, however, your commentary should be at least one paragraph and include justification from the work as evidence to support your claim about the issue. Some characters have more than one issue connected to them.

III. Research: Then, research two different issues from each novel and print a contemporary NEWS article (not a Blog, not an excerpt from an Encyclopedia) from a credible source relating to each issue. Be sure to include the source information, from where the article came, the date, publisher, website, etc. Be ready to discuss how the articles relate to the issue in the novel and how the issue is dealt with in contemporary
society. You should have four articles in total. Please do not try and do this with a friend, we need to have different articles in order to synthesize information from various sources and viewpoints.

**Deadline:** As this is summer work, I expect that the reading and assignments will be completed by the first day of school. Be sure to bring copies of both works as well as your annotations, social issues charts, and research articles on the **first day of class**.

The completion of these requirements conveys that you are ready for the stimulating challenge that awaits you in AP Language. Your assignments will be verified and graded during the **first quarter** of the semester. Delay in starting this responsibility is foolish. Far too many talented students delay the required readings etc. and their first semester grade suffers as a result. Be wise, get started!

If you should have any questions regarding the above, I can be reached at my school email: **ecarrillo@asd.edu.qa**

See you in the Fall!

Ms. Estrella Carrillo