

Advanced Placement Literature Summer Reading – 2009
Doherty High School District 11
Mrs. Jahelka
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You have chosen a rewarding, while challenging course for your last year of high school. To prepare for college-level literary analysis in reading, writing and discussion, you will complete two assignments during the summer so that on the first day of school, we are ready to move forward and I have samples to guide our first semester's instruction. All work will be submitted 18 August 2009. You may e-mail me during the summer with questions or to seek guidance.

Assignment I – College Essay Application

The essay topics below have been used by major colleges and universities within the past several years to assist them in determining which applicants to admit. In many cases, I have indicated the college source, but you should be aware that many of these topics are used by more than one college. Select any one of the topics from either of the two groups to use for a two page typed or word processed essay. Be sure to consider #9 if you have a specific school in mind. For a creative experience, choose the University of Chicago prompts. If you choose your own prompt, include the prompt and the school at the top of your essay. This essay is due on August 18th. You may e-mail it to me before the 18th if you should get it done early.

Group A (UC *Personal Statement* topics from 2007 application - limit 600 words)

1. How have you taken advantage of the educational opportunities you have had to prepare for college?
2. Tell us about a talent, experience, contribution or personal quality you will bring to the University of California.

Group B (limit no more than 750 words)

3. Tell us about a conversation you've had that changed your perspective or was otherwise meaningful to you. *Stanford*
4. Tell one story about yourself that would best provide us, either directly or indirectly, with an insight into the kind of person you are. For example, the story can simply relate a personal experience, or a humorous anecdote; it can tell about an especially significant academic encounter or about an unusual test of character. The possibilities are unlimited (well, almost so). You choose. Just relax and write it. *Princeton*
5. If you could go back and change one day in your life, what would you change and why? *Santa Clara University*

6. Discuss how some negative experience (disability, illness, failure) has had a positive influence on your life.
7. Discuss the most important piece of advice you have ever received and explain its effect on your life.
8. Tell us how a particular book, play, film, piece of music, dance performance, scientific theory or experiment or work of art has influenced you. If you choose a novel, film or play, assume we know the plot. *University of Notre Dame*
9. **Optional Topic:** Select any other college entrance essay topic from a current college application. Submit a copy of the prompt with the essay.

Assignments II – IV– Readings

I encourage you to buy personal copies of all books so that you can write/annotate in them as you read. Annotation allows you to interact with the narrative through comments, questions, and recognizing literary techniques such as symbolism and allusion. As you read, recognize how the author uses plot, character, setting, point-of-view, symbolism, and style to manipulate the reader’s thematic understanding. Should you come across a word or reference unfamiliar to you, look it up! This may be a key allusion to unlocking the author’s theme.

How to Read Literature Like a Professor (Highly Recommended) by Thomas C. Foster

As you read each chapter, identify the essential **question** which the chapter answers. Include key examples from literature that you have previously read. Also, choose a visual representation for the essential idea. You may choose a movie/television scene, photo, or personal experience. Thus, you are creating a notebook, with a page dedicated to each chapter. That page will include the essential question, literary example, and visual example. You will use this notebook as a resource throughout the course. A three-ring binder will work best so that you can assimilate literary terms, works read, and critical articles as we cover them in class.

Cold Mountain – by Charles Frazier

Read the book, not watch the movie, after you have created your notebook. Enjoy the Hero’s Journey of both Ada and Inman as they value their helpers and pass their “tests” along the way. You will have a reading check test 18 August.

Free Choice Book –

Read a book that you would not normally read in school. Have fun! Be prepared to explain how the author creates a story that appeals to you.