

Summer Assignment

Read these instructions completely before you begin. Don't worry! It's not as much as much work as it may look. I just don't want you to be confused as you do it. Email me if you need help.

Objective

To prepare you for AP Literature and Composition *and* to enable you to enjoy your summer at the same time, I have selected two works that I think you'll find interesting and that I hope you will actually *want* to read. From the written requirements, you will learn how to annotate a work of literature and how to use resources to clarify your perception of a work.

Materials

To complete these assignments, you will need the following:

- A personal copy of Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*
- A personal copy of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*
- A notebook to use as a journal
- Access to the links provided in this assignment

Procedures

1. First, read the information in the links provided below on how to do a close reading. You will use this information to guide you through a close reading of each of the books listed above. I will be collecting your books **and** your journal in order to grade your annotations. Your books and journals will be returned to you.
2. Read and annotate *Mythology* first. Knowledge of mythology will help you to recognize and to understand mythological allusions in literature. When you annotate this work, focus on factual information (who, what, where, when, why, and how). In September you will be using your annotations to create part of a multimedia presentation to use as a resource throughout the course. Make sure you annotate the *entire* book because I will randomly assign each of you a section. I expect you to *do more meaningful highlighting than commentary* on this one; focus on details to be used in creation of a reference guide. This reading, highlighting, and note taking should *not* be an overwhelming, laborious focus on minutiae. You can keep notes in your journal for this work, but you are not required to do so. In other words, don't overwork yourself. Read, mark, and enjoy!

3. Next, research as instructed below for *Brave New World* before you begin so that you'll have a greater understanding as you are reading the novel. Keep all notes in the notebook/journal in your own words and in your own handwriting. You do not need to be formal or to write complete sentences when you write these notes. Make sure to cite all sources of information.
 - a. **Entry 1:** Research the background of Aldous Huxley and the time period in which he wrote the book. Make notes of personal and historical details that may have been influential factors in his writing or in the process he used when writing.
 - b. **Entry 2:** Define *utopia* and *dystopia*. Preview *Brave New World*. Based on the words defined, any cover art and writing on the book itself, and any introduction provided, what is your prediction of what the book is about? Explain why this is or why this is not the type of book you would normally be interested in reading. Does this book seem to remind you of something else you have read? If you have read this book before, give your impression of it and explain why you did or did not enjoy it.
4. Next, read and annotate *Brave New World*. These annotations should be more thorough and analytical than your *Mythology* highlighting and annotations. As you progress through the novel, try to notice any patterns and themes that you see developing and focus your annotations and your notes toward these ideas.
5. For each of the chapters in the novel, write an entry in your journal in which you elaborate on the notes and annotations you have made (**Entries 3 through 20**).
6. Review all of your journal entries for *Brave New World*. Now develop a thesis that asserts a focused theme of the novel. Write this thesis statement as **Entry 21**. You will not need to do anything but write the thesis. You'll be using all of these notes to write an in-class literary analysis. If you're struggling with the thesis, you can also use the link for "Writing a Literary Analysis" to get you going. Remember, though, you're not writing the analysis yet—just the thesis statement.
7. For **Entry 22**, tell me what you think of the book. Give any and all opinions, and explain each with elaboration and examples.
8. For **Entry 23**, tell me what you think of the process you went through for your summer assignment. Once again, give any and all opinions and explain and support them.

Evaluation

How will these be graded?

Since the assignments for both of these works are preparation for activities in class in September, credit earned will be included in a larger grade for the assignments that we will be completing in class.

Additional Materials

1. Buy a copy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C Foster.

We will be using this book in class. Bring it with you when you return to school. You do not need to read it yet.

2. Visit <http://homepage.mac.com/mseffie/AP/APtitles.html>

This site lists titles from open response questions on previous AP exams. If you want to do any additional or pleasure reading this summer, you might want to check out some of these books. This is not required!

Links

Use the sites listed below to help you with the assignment. If you are unable to access any of these resources, just search for another one by doing a general search on the topic. If you have trouble finding what you need, email me for help.

1. For help with Close Reading:

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/CloseReading.html>

This site gives a good overview of what the purpose of a close reading is and generally how it's done.

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/s/a/sam50/closeread.htm>

This site gives a more in-depth description of what to look for as you read, highlight, and make comments in your book.

<http://theliterarylink.com/closereading.html>

This site is another list of steps for close reading.

2. For help with Thesis Development:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/616/02>

This site will walk you through the process of reviewing your notes to deciding what to write your thesis about.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/697/01>

This site has a PowerPoint presentation "Writing a Literary Analysis" which is helpful in showing you how to focus your thesis.