



English IV AP/Dual 2 Summer Reading Assignments 2017

For students enrolled in English IV AP (#1430) and English IV AP D2 (#1457)

Your assignment is tripartite:

1. First, closely read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster.
Take good notes over the advice you encounter in this text. (Expect a grade on these notes.)
2. Then, closely read Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* like a professor.
Annotate the text and take good notes over the various symbols and patterns you encounter - based on what you read in in Foster's book. (Expect a grade on these notes.)

NOTE: You will probably want to read *Jane Eyre* once just to get the gist of the text. Then read it a second time, making meaningful observations about the symbols and patterns. Expect an exam and a major writing assignment over your summer reading.

A NOTE ABOUT GOOD NOTES: Demonstrate your ability to read and annotate both texts thoughtfully and thoroughly. Highlighting by itself does not constitute annotation. You must write meaningful notes and make connections with the text.

If you purchased the book and can mark in it: Highlight important information and make thoughtful notes in the margin with your comments, observations, questions, objections, etc.

If you borrowed the book and cannot mark in: Put post it notes throughout the book with your annotations OR handwrite your notes on your own notebook paper. DO NOT type these notes.

3. Work on your college-admission and scholarship essay pre-writing.
This will be a **MAJOR** grade in the first six weeks, but more importantly, working on this assignment during the summer will help you tremendously in the college and scholarship application process during your senior year. If you draft these essays during the summer, you will be able to spend more time thinking about the topics and thus produce better writing (and a whole lot less stress during the school year).
NOTE: We will revise at least one of these essays in class, but the primary purpose of the prewriting is to give you a bank from which to work with later in the year when you are completing applications.
Reminder: This is a significant amount of writing. Save it to a couple of places (desktop and a flash drive) so you don't lose it. You will upload it to turnitin.com when we return to school.

College Admissions/Scholarship Essay Prewriting Assignment – MAJOR Grade

15 pages TYPED, MLA-format (1 inch margins; size 12 Arial font) due to turnitin.com by **11:59 p.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2017**. The first page must include your MLA-format heading, with your header (last name and page number on subsequent pages). Type the prompt you are addressing at the top of the page. If your response continues on to a 2nd page, you don't have to retype the prompt. When you address a new prompt, start a new page.

Rationale: Most universities require at least 2 essays for admissions purposes on different topics, which are usually very broad. The following are topics taken from the ApplyTexas Application, which the major universities in Texas use. (Each topic has prompt questions, which your teachers have written to assist you in thinking about the topic. You, of course, may also come up with your own prompts.) Be sure to check which topics are required by the universities to which you want to apply and focus on those. If you are applying out of Texas, you might consult the U.S. Common Application or check the university's website. Some universities are now part of the Coalition for Access and Affordability, including some schools in Texas, and have their own prompts. Your bottom line: Research the topics – both for college admissions and scholarships – that will benefit you the most. Write on those topics.

Generally, the topics are extremely broad, and most students have difficulty in focusing on a specific subject. “I don’t know what to write about” is the most common complaint. Most universities suggest that you spend lots of time thinking and processing your ideas in order to help you produce the best examples of your writing ability. To assist you in focusing on potential topics, you will write on at least 15 different prompts, one page minimum for each. (If you want to write more and finish each essay, then great. But, you are required to address 15 DIFFERENT prompts. Remember, a big part of your purpose is to generate a bank of ideas from which you can withdraw later.) Generally, you should write these essays as if you are telling a story and NOT as if you are just answering a question.

ApplyTexas Essay Prompts for 2017-18:

Essay A:

What was the environment in which you were raised? Describe your family, home, neighborhood, or community, and explain how it has shaped you as a person.

- Which family member has influenced you the most? How and why?
- Have you ever had difficulty getting along with a family member? What happened? How did you resolve the problem?
- What’s the most important value you have learned from your grandparents?
- How close are you to your extended family: cousins, grandparents, aunts, uncles? Explain their importance.
- Describe an important family tradition. What makes it special? Will you continue it with your family in the future?
- Have you and your family ever had to endure a crisis such as loss of a parent’s job, serious illness, death of a parent or sibling? How did you cope?
- When we love someone, we sometimes have to make sacrifices for them. Have you had to make a sacrifice (time, money, etc.) for your family or has a family member sacrificed for you?
- What is your definition of “home”? Is it your parents’ house? Your grandma’s apartment? A friend’s house? What makes this place so special?
- What is the most special room in your home? Why is it so important to you?
- Have you ever had to move from one house or apartment to another? How did that make you feel? What was it like leaving your home? How were you able to make a new beginning?
- How long have you lived in your current house or apartment? How well do you know your neighbors? What was one important neighborhood happening that has occurred?
- Have you ever lived anywhere else, very different from suburban San Antonio? In a small town or another country? What was it like? What did you learn from the experience?
- If you had to pick the one thing that your family values most, what would it be and why?
- Where did you attend elementary school? What was your best memory of that time period in your life? How has it influenced you? What life lessons do you still carry from those years?
- What is your most profound memory from middle school? Why has this stuck with you?
- Sometimes the people we are closest to are not people who are biologically related to us. Is this true for you? Who is the one person in your childhood you could count on more than anyone else?
- Whom do you consider your “family” at Brandeis? How have these people (or this organization) shaped you?
- Some people consider their church, synagogue, mosque, or temple as a type of second home. Are you one of those people? What impact has your church community had on your life?

Essay B:

Some students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. If you are one of these students, then tell us about yourself.

- How do you introduce yourself to others? As a musician? Painter? Future doctor?
- Is there a moment in your background that defined who you are as a person? A choice you made that impacted the rest of your life?
- Do you especially identify yourself through your culture, sexuality, religion, future occupation, ethnicity, gender, or some other identifying quality? Why is this identity important to you?
- When did you begin working on the talent through which you identify? Why did you choose to study it? What were the hardest parts in studying? What came naturally or easily?
- What started your interest in a specific topic? Did you initiate your study of this topic or did someone else?
- What is your high school identifier: gamer, skater, cheerleader, drama queen, band nerd, hipster, techie, dancer, singer, athlete, etc.? How did you develop this identity?
- When you were a small child, what was the one activity (dancing, skateboarding, soccer, play acting, etc.) you enjoyed above all others? How is this still important to you today?
- Is there a specific cause that you champion? Have you spent time working with volunteer organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society, etc.?

- How important is your religion or youth group in your life? How have your beliefs shaped who you have become?
- To which organizations do you belong? Which club or group has had a profound impact on your life? How?

Essay C:

You've got a ticket in your hand – Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

- Why did you choose this destination? Because of a person? Location? Event?
- What would you do at this destination? Sightseeing things or something more significant?
- If you could see one live Broadway or London theater production, what would it be and why?
- If you could attend a concert of a musician who is now deceased, who would it be? Why?
- What is a "Bucket List" place you want to visit? Why?
- If you could take a river cruise anywhere in the world, which river would you select? Why?
- If you could spend a semester in college studying abroad, which country would you choose and why?
- If intergalactic travel were an option, what planet would you visit? Why?
- If you could take a train ride in a country whose language you don't speak, which one would it be and why?
- If you could time travel, what epoch would you visit? Why?
- Of all the states in the U.S. that you haven't been to, which is the one you most want to visit. Why?
- It is a Presidential election year. Which political party's convention would you attend and why?
- If you were to be nominated for a major award such as the Academy Awards (Oscars), Tonys, Grammys, Emmys, People's Choice, etc. - which would it be and why?
- Olympics, World Cup, Super Bowl, Stanley Cup, the Master's, Final Four, NBA Championship Game - which one major sporting event would you attend and why?
- Of all the big festivals you could attend (Comic-Con, Coachella, Sundance Film, Taste of Chicago, etc.), which one would you pick and why?

The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success prompts for the 2017-18 application year are:

- 1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.**
 - o When did it happen? Where? Why? Who else was involved?
 - o What happened in the beginning, middle, and end? What did you learn from it?
- 2. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.**
 - o Is there an organization for which you've volunteered? What did you do there? What were some of the best times? Worst times? How has this experience shaped you as a person?
- 3. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?**
 - o Did someone bring up this challenge? Why? What was your response?
 - o Is there anyone who helped you through this challenge? What did they do?
- 4. What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?**
 - o What do older generations say about your generation? Is it a fair description? Is it a generalization?
 - o What is something your generation tends to do that you are proud of? Something they do that you are embarrassed about?
 - o How has social media impacted your life? The good? The bad? Have any advice to a younger sibling regarding it?
- 5. Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.**

U.S Common Application Prompts 2017-2018 Essay Prompts

(According to commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-announces-2017-2018-essay-prompts)

- 1. 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.**
 - Refer to Essay B in the ApplyTexas prompts for more questions.
- 2. 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?**
 - Many people say that young people don't learn from failure. When is a time that you proved that wrong?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

- Refer to Prompt 3 from the Coalition questions above.

4. 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.

- Why does this issue matter to you more than others? What impact could it make on you, your community, and the future of the world?

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

- Was it a formal event like a quinceñera, bar/bat mitzvah, Sweet 16, confirmation? Was it an informal thing like a birthday party, drivers license, etc? What was life like before and after this event?

6. 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?

- How did this idea or concept come into your life? Is it something you want to pursue in college or your profession? Have you shared this passion with others? What was their reaction?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

To be clear:

If you want full credit for this assignment, you will produce 15 FULL pages of writing on 15 different prompts. So, if you wrote on a topic and could generate only a partial page, add an additional prompt and respond to it. If you responded to a prompt and wrote more than a page, that's great. You still have to address at least 15 different prompts. (You are generating a minimum of 15 different rough drafts on at least 15 different prompts so that you can explore ideas and have a pool of resources for revising essays at a later date. This will generate a fabulous bank of pre-writing for you.) Be sure that you do address a variety of topics, though. If you write all your responses on prompts on Essay A, that won't help you later with Essay B and C. Be practical about which prompts you address and select those that will benefit you the most in terms of your college applications and scholarships.

Typed, double-spaced, Arial, size 12 font, 1 inch margins, MLA heading on first page only, header (last name and page number on subsequent pages).



**Have a great vacation,
but be sure to complete your
reading and writing assignments!**

Questions? Contact Rachel.Gray-Castro@nisd.net or John.Paul@nisd.net.