

**English IV Honors (British Literature)/AP Literature and Composition  
Summer Reading  
2018-2019**

Welcome to English IV Honors/AP Literature. The rigorous AP curriculum requires a high level of commitment from every student, both **inside** and **outside** of the classroom. Although it seems early, this commitment begins with the summer reading assignment. You are expected to do an excellent job and will be held to high standards for these assignments, which will count as the first grades of the Fall 2018 quarter. Please TYPE all assignments and use MLA format throughout. Do not hesitate to e-mail me with any questions/concerns you may have.

**The following assignments are due on the first day of class in August without exception. Any plagiarized work will receive a zero. Save all of your work on a computer and/or flash drive as you will upload it to turnitin.com once the school year begins!**

The projects involve the following: reading two texts, taking notes, writing an introduction paragraph with an effective thesis statement, creating discussion questions, responding to the literature, and reflecting on and connecting the two texts. These tasks will be repeated throughout this literature based course. Be prepared to have high-level, insightful discourse about these literary works.

Good luck, and feel free to contact me during the summer if you have any questions! If you do not receive a timely response, I most likely did not receive your e-mail. I look forward to seeing each of you in August!

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**Part I—Reading**

Read the following texts: *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley (ISBN: 978-0060850524) **AND** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, by Thomas C. Foster (ISBN: 978-0060009427). I suggest reading *HTR* first as it provides a foundation for the literary journey you are beginning. I do not suggest sitting down and reading *HTR* at one time. It is formatted in brief chapters, and you'll likely comprehend more if you read it in small sections at a time.

**Part II—*Brave New World* Introduction Paragraph & Thesis Statement**

1. Choose **one** of the following prompts as the foundation for your introduction and thesis. Remember, you are **not** writing a plot summary in your introductory paragraph; you are drafting and typing a 5-7 sentence introduction and thesis for literary analysis. Your focus should be from broad to specific and your thesis statement should be the last, and most targeted, sentence of your introductory paragraph. These prompts are based on previous AP Literature Exam essay prompts. You are just writing the introduction and the thesis at this point. Remember that your thesis statement should be an original arguable and debatable claim (not a fact) that reflects both the prompt (a, b, **or** c below) and your interpretation of the text (without using first person).
  - a. Choose a complex and important character from *BNW* who might on the basis of the character's actions alone be considered evil or immoral. Explain both how and why the full presentation of the character in the work makes us react more sympathetically than we otherwise might.
  - b. Although literary critics have tended to praise the unique in literary characterizations, many authors have employed the stereotyped character successfully. Show how the conventional or stereotyped character or characters function to achieve the author's purpose in *BNW*.
  - c. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose such a character from *BNW* who plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions or moral values.

**Part III—*Brave New World* News Article Personal Response**

1. Read the 2015 article “*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, book of a lifetime: Relation between power and happiness” by Yuval Noah Harari, available by Googling the article title (click on the second result) or at:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/brave-new-world-by-aldous-huxley-book-of-a-lifetime-relation-between-power-and-happiness-10231883.html>

2. Draft and type a one-page personal response to the article in which you express your agreement or disagreement with his ideas about *BNW*'s importance. Include one or two central (direct) quotes from the article as the basis for your discussion and cite them within your response using proper MLA format (Harari). You should have a minimum of two paragraphs, and you may use first person. Be honest in your response and support your ideas using evidence from the article and the novel.

**Part IV—Discussion Questions for *Brave New World* AND *How to Read Literature Like a College Professor***

1. Draft and type five thought-provoking DISCUSSION questions for each work (for a total of ten questions). Do not write questions that have one word answers. Your questions will be the starting point for several class seminar discussions.

**Part V—*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and *Brave New World* Dialectical (Double-Entry) Journal**

1. After having read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and *BNW*, you will apply what you've learned in Foster's book to *BNW*. This part of the assignment will make more sense after you have read *HTR*.

Step 1: Choose **five** key passages from *BNW* (lengthy enough for extended analysis and important to the overall text (typically 100-200 words).

Step 2: With each passage, analyze its significance based on some piece or chapter of Foster's *HTR*. You do not have to apply all of that book's critical lenses, but you should use a variety in your analyses. Your well-written analysis will make a clear attempt at using one (or more) of Foster's lenses to illuminate meaning within the passage from *Brave New World*. Show how your analysis connects the significance of this passage with key themes (big ideas/issues) of the novel overall.

Step 3: Type your responses in dialectical (double-entry) journal style: a dialectical journal simply means *dialoguing with or talking to your text*.

August 17, 2018 Dialectical Journal- <i>Brave New World</i>	
Approximately 1/3 of pg	Approximately 2/3 of pg

**Dialectical Journal****Example:**

Copy quotes from the book in the left column.

Be sure to cite correctly!

**(Huxley 46) - EXAMPLE**

**Analysis:**

Write your response to the quote in the right column. Why is it significant and how does it fit in the overall work? How would Foster read this passage?

**Sample Passage**

The Savage's face lit up with a sudden pleasure. "Have you read it too?" he asked. "I thought nobody knew about that book here, in England."

"Almost nobody. I'm one of the very few. It's prohibited, you see. But as I make the laws here, I can also break them. With impunity, Mr. Marx," he added, turning to Bernard...

"But why is it prohibited?" asked the Savage. In the excitement of meeting a man who had read Shakespeare he had momentarily forgotten everything else.

The Controller shrugged his shoulders. "Because it's old; that's the chief reason. We haven't any use for old things here."

"Even when they're beautiful?"

"Particularly when they're beautiful. Beauty's attractive, and we don't want people attracted by old things. We want them to like the new ones" (Huxley 218-219).

**Sample Analysis**

In this passage, John and Mustapha Mond are discussing a passage of Shakespeare's and the dangers of liking an old and classical author when the entire society in *BNW* is primed for embracing only new and non-traditional ideals. This relates to Foster's Chapter 6, "When In Doubt, It's From Shakespeare," in which he explains the prominence and relevance of the most famous English author of all time. Foster says that Shakespeare's works can be considered "sacred texts," which confers "authority." He also discusses the concept of intertextuality, and maintains Shakespeare is "a figure against whom writers can struggle, a source of texts against which other texts can bounce ideas" (43). This concept is mirrored throughout *BNW*, as John's love of Shakespeare's language and ideals stands in stark contrast to the rest of society's actions and beliefs. Shakespeare is indeed an author for the ages as his words and ideas are juxtaposed so brilliantly against the limited and frightening world view expressed and embraced in Huxley's novel. It is indeed ironic that the supposedly advanced society in the book has no knowledge of such a foundational author, and that the "uncivilized" and "savage" John has a deep love for his words.

**Assessment**— Part II - 50 point essay grade  
 Part V – 100 point test grade  
 Part III – 100 point quiz grade  
 Part IV - 50 point quiz grade

**You are required to type all assignments and use MLA format throughout. Please submit your completed assignments to Google Classroom on or before the due date.**