

Friday, May 12, 2017

Future Pre-AP English 9 student,

Congratulations on enrolling in Pre-AP English 9! The English course you take next year will be rigorous, stimulating, and rewarding. The workload for this course will be intense; however, this course will thoroughly prepare you for future work in AP classes.

All students enrolled in Pre-AP English 9 are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Students are expected to read, annotate, and take notes on their reading. Furthermore, the books you will read require deep consideration and ample reflection, so resist the temptation to put off the assignment until just before school starts. Students are responsible for obtaining these books on their own; you can pick up copies from a bookstore, or you can purchase the books from an online retailer like Amazon. Please see the back of this sheet for your specific assignment, which is to be completed and in class the first day of school.

This course will require extensive reading throughout the year as well. Pre-AP students will be required to purchase some of the books read in class. You are advised to prepare for the potential cost that taking a Pre-AP class entails.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Welcome to the Pre-AP/AP program; I look forward to working with you next year!

Sincerely,

Amanda Koulianos  
Highland High School  
English Department

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## Pre AP English 9 Required Summer Reading Assignments

Your assignment is to read *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson and *Generation Me* by Jean M. Twenge, PhD. You will annotate each book and complete a dialectical journal as you read.

### Annotations

Annotating means reading with a pen or pencil in hand and marking the text in a helpful, meaningful way. Here are some suggestions:

- Write comments in the margin especially to ask questions, jot down main ideas/events, make connections, etc.
- Star any passages you think are very important
- Underline any sentences that you found appealing or that made you think
- Circle or highlight words that are unfamiliar to you
- Bracket areas that you were confused about or did not fully understand

### Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is a written log that you keep representing a conversation that you have with a text. Your DJ should be broken into three columns:

- 1) Quotes from the Text
- 2) Area of focus (Character, Theme, Conflict, Setting, Mood)
- 3) Commentary/Analysis.

Choose meaningful, powerful, or thought-provoking quotations from the text to include in the left column, and be sure to include page numbers. In the center column, name the area of focus for the selected quotation. In the right column, write down your reflections on the quoted passages. You should also use the right column to make predictions, ask questions, make connections, and analyze the text for literary devices (tone, structure, style, imagery, etc.)

You should include a minimum of 20 entries for each book. See to it that your entries are distributed evenly throughout the text (in other words, make sure that you don't just include quotations from the first few chapters of the book). Be sure to include page numbers with your quotes. Look at an example from *Fast Food Nation* below for guidance.

Quotes from the Text	Area of Focus	Commentary
"The ability of meatpacking firms to delay payment discourages many injured workers from ever filing workers' comp claims" (185).	Conflict	This quote leads the reader to question the quality/ability of workers in the meatpacking firms due to these discouraging situations. Also frustration that American workers are being treated so poorly. If the workers are injured wouldn't that possibly cause further injury? Or could their injury create hazardous conditions for fellow co-workers?

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Koulianos at [akoulian@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:akoulian@highland.k12.in.us)