

PSHS AP ENGLISH IV

To our students and their parents:

Student's name (print) _____

Date _____

Welcome to AP English IV! We are excited about our curriculum and about you as an AP student. Your presence in this class means you have the training, the discipline, and the intelligence to succeed in a college-level course. Naturally, we applaud and encourage this success.

REGARDING COURSE CONTENT:

Parents and students should be aware that the majority of works studied in AP English 4 appear on the Advanced Placement reading list; these works are recommended by the College Board to be read by high school students who choose to take AP courses. This literature requires considerable maturity on the part of the reader and is not necessarily chosen to please, but to make the reader think. As with any work of art, literature is a form of communication from one mind to another, an expression of human diversity and difference of opinion. Literature demands that we cherish our right to be delighted, enriched, and strengthened, as well as our right to be challenged, offended, and even threatened. From this confrontation comes both struggle and growth. Literature as art is an end unto itself whereby appreciation, not approval, is the goal. It is our hope the students will come to appreciate the textual richness and depth of thought that literature offers.

REGARDING THE SYLLABUS:

A print copy of our six-week syllabus will be provided for this first 6-weeks, and the syllabus will be posted on the PSHS website for students to download for each 6-weeks throughout the year. We expect you to plan ahead as you organize your reading and study time. If you are absent, you are expected to be prepared with missing assignments upon your return to class. Always check with a classmate in your class period if you have questions regarding assignments during an absence, as each class period and each teacher will have a unique pace.

REGARDING LATE WORK:

- **Any long-range assignment is due on the assigned due date.**
- **An assignment not turned in on the assigned day will receive a grade of zero.**
- **An assignment turned in on the due date, but after the student's class period, will receive a ten-point deduction from the grade.**
- **We do not accept late homework.**

REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Because of our accelerated course content and atmosphere, as well as our clear expectations for academic honesty, it is the responsibility of each student to adhere to a high code of honor and integrity. Our students work hard and deserve to succeed. It is in this atmosphere of trust, comfort, and openness that learning will take place. This relationship of mutual respect between student and teacher requires honesty in all situations. *Should cheating or plagiarism occur, the student will receive no credit or possibly a double zero for the assignment, be referred to his/her sub-school for disciplinary action, and be subject to possible removal from the AP Program. In addition, a student involved in an instance of academic dishonesty should be aware of the ramifications regarding teacher recommendations and college admission.*

Cheating and **plagiarism** are serious offenses. They include:

1. Stealing passages or ideas from any other source and using them in one's own writing assignments without proper documentation.
2. Collaborating with another student on an individual assignment.
3. Recoding/copying test questions or answers to pass to other students and/or receiving copied questions or answers.
4. Cheating on a test or quiz.

REGARDING CLASS PARTICIPATION AND SEMINARS:

The sharing of thoughts and points-of-view is an important part of this course. Since we strongly believe your thoughts are valuable to both you and your classmates, your class participation is important. In addition, periodically we will engage in graded seminars. Rules of conduct and standards of grading will be given to you in class before the first seminar. The purpose of these seminars is the analytical discussion of ideas presented in the works with concrete support from the works. If you miss a seminar, your teacher may assign an essay topic upon your return to class. Participation in class discussion and seminars will count approximately 10% of your 6-weeks grade.

We hope this information is helpful to your personal organization. Please share this letter with your parents so that you and they will know our expectations. This, your senior year, will be an exciting one for you, and we are honored to be able to contribute to and share in such an important time in your lives. *Parents, please come to Open House. We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions.*

The AP English 4 team: Kevin Dunagan, Catherine Golden, Mary Stanton, and Vanda Terrell

***Please sign and return this letter. It is posted on the PSHS website if you wish to review these policies at a later date.

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____