

May 20, 2009

Dear Incoming English IV AP Students:

The AP teachers congratulate you on a successful year in the AP program and know that your senior year will continue to be rewarding. You have our admiration and gratitude for accepting the challenge of Advanced Placement English at Bowie. Your sacrifice of time and energy (and the occasional night's sleep) is appreciated here, and will gain you rewards far beyond.

Your **summer reading** for English IV AP will be to choose either *1984* by George Orwell or *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Although not mandatory, purchasing the book so you can mark it up as you read is a good idea. As you read, note the outward conformity as it parallels the inside struggle of the characters. When you return in the fall, expect a multiple choice test along with a written piece. We would also like you to relate the topics of your book to today's world. Find four recent (within the past year) articles that reflect an idea/theme seen in the book. Print out the article and in a paragraph (150-200 words) describe the similarities. These will be due the first week of school. Below are some links that bring together a wide range of news outlets and can help you with your search.

**Headlinespot.com** is at <http://headlinespot.com/>

**Today's Front Pages** is at <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/>

**Arts & Letters Daily** is at <http://www.aldaily.com/>

Another part of our summer work is writing a personal essay. These types of assignments give teachers a head start in knowing something about you beyond your classroom face. So please write a personal essay or letter describing yourself in a setting teachers wouldn't ordinarily see you in. Please make it rich in imagery and detail and in personal resonances. Here's the beginning of Ms. Cochran's up-dated personal essay.

*My heart rate is climbing, my legs are heavy and my arms move reluctantly as my body awkwardly tries to rally together to create a systematic rhythm to the beats of the music playing in my ears. As one song ends and the next begins, my mind repeats the mantra "The first mile is your warm-up."*

*I love running. It is my outlet. My runs are usually early in the morning when no one else is around. The only signs of life are the morning birds sweeping down to catch the waking insects as they rise from the dew sprinkled grass. Because of the quiet stillness, I can hear my body engage in the experience. My feet pound on the pavement, my rapid breathing becomes heavy, and after the first mile, my legs and arms rhythmically move to the songs playing on my iPod.*

Get the idea? This will obviously be in first person and can be informal in tone and voice. Please hit at least 300 words, but no more than 500.

If you have questions or anxieties or would just like to touch base, please call Ms. Cochran at (817) 905-2661 or email Ms. Myers at [lauraemyers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lauraemyers@sbcglobal.net). Have a wonderful summer—see you in August.