

A Basic Look at Your 11AP Class

(otherwise known as all the first day mumbo jumbo)

Greeting, salutations and all that fun stuff! Welcome to Mr. Holzer's 11AP class for the 2011-2012 school year (don't mind the third person voice, it *is* fun). As to be expected, ye ol' class that you are now sitting in has some basic rules and regulations, which we'll be going over so-as to not have you tripping over your shoes when it comes to class process. The next part is a bit high-handed, but it's important, so listen up if you would be so kind.

We are here for YOU, for you to succeed and enjoy this class. Because I care for my students (which would be you all), I am here to help you. So with that in mind, I will not allow you to do anything that will interfere with your success in this class.

We will all be working together this year. We need to have a class where you can come without fear of being ridiculed or threatened. Because I care for everyone's well beings, I will not allow you to do anything that will interfere with someone else who is trying to learn.

I truly am looking forward to being your teacher this year. I have an exciting year planned for you, and in that respect, I will not allow you to do anything to interfere with my desire to teach you. Nor will I allow you to do anything that will interfere with all of us having an enjoyable year.

We are in this together. So that YOU can learn, so that WE can all learn, so that I can teach, I have a set of rules to ensure that we will have an orderly classroom, which go as follows:

- #1. Bring all books and materials to class.
- #2. Be on time and in your seats when the bell rings.
- #3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
- #4 Quiet when someone else is talking.
- #5. No profanity.
- #6. Be respectful of other people, their space, and their possessions (that means no touching/hitting and or stealing people's things).

Pretty easy eh? Well with that done, the rest of this packet goes over our general year, your attendance policy and what you need to bring with you to class. It's also in the form of a Faq sheet to make it a little easier.

Oh yes, I've been told you're the best and the brightest, so don't prove my colleagues wrong!

The 11AP Faq (Frequently Asked Questions) Sheet

Q: Do you have some sort of wacky attendance policy?

A: I couldn't torture you if I didn't. See the next last segment for the full layout of the attendance policy.

Q: What books are we reading this year?

A: We'll be reading a number of books, so here's the list:

The Fountainhead

Into Thin Air

The Great Gatsby

A Lesson Before Dying
Of Mice and Men
Into the Wild
Never Cry Wolf
The Old Man and the Sea
Childhood's End
"Death of a Salesman" or "The Crucible"

Q: Can I go to the bathroom? Pleeeeeaaasseeeee!

A: Sure. Once a semester I'll let you go. After that you have to sing *I'm a Little Tea Pot* before I'll let you go. Seriously.

Q: So what are we getting graded on?

A: Here's the *approximate* breakdown of what you're getting graded on:

Homework (10%)
Classwork (15-20%)
Funbook (5%)
Attendance (10%)
Quizzes (10-20%)
Written Finals (20-25%)
Other (10%)
Research Project (30% depending on what quarter it's graded)

Q: Um, what's a "funbook?"

A: *Every Friday* you need to bring a book/novel of your choice to class. You might not actually read the book on a Friday, but you need to have it with you. Also, if you are absent on a Friday (or any other day you should bring it in), just show it to me the next school day for credit.

Q: Can I go behind your desk?

A: No. That's a mauling by wombat felony.

Q: What's with the Yoda poster?

A: Yoda is the man. Nuff said.

Q: Can I borrow a book off the book shelf?

A: That would be a yes. All you need to do is ask, and then sign out the book.

Q: What do I need to bring to class?

A: For every day that you're in class you need these

Pen/pencil
Notebook
Folder/binder
Book and or play we're working on

If there's something else you need for class, the side board will let you know

Q: Where do we look to find out what we have for homework?

A: Just take a gander at the side board with my name on it. That will tell you everything you need to know for homework. **However**, I sometimes orally tell you things as well, so be aware. Be very aware....

Q: Do you accept late work?

A: Homework, no. But, I do accept larger projects and written work late.

Q: There must be a penalty for late work. What's the penalty?

A: It's quite easy really. It is minus fifteen (15) points off per **calendar** day. Not school day, **calendar** day. I'll take a maximum of 30 points off.

Q: What if we have a project due right before a break?

A: You won't. But if you do, refer to the idea of points off per calendar day.

Q: Can we make up tests or quizzes we miss due to absences?

A: If you don't show me a legal absence slip, nope. You also have one (1) week from the date of your return to make up tests or quizzes if you have a legal absence.

Q: Speaking of quizzes and tests, can I make them up during class?

A: No. You must make up quizzes *after school*, and after school *only*.

Q: As we're in an AP class, do we like have some sort of grammar rule?

A: Oh but of course! If I find two grammatical mistakes on any paper, homework, paper or project, I give you back what you handed in with either a 50 or an x.

Q: Wait, what does the 50 and the x mean?

A: I grade all written work out of 100, so a 50 is obviously a 50 out of 100. Homework is graded as either a check or an x. A check means you did what you were supposed to do, an x means you didn't.

Q: Any chance we can re-do the 50 and unacceptable homework?

A: Actually yes. Just re-write the work, staple the original to it, and hand it back to me. On occasion I'll hand back written work that can be rewritten, but don't expect this too often.

Mr. Holzer's Webpage

Seeing as how students sometimes miss class, or need reminders of what important things are coming up in class, I've created a webpage dedicated to letting you the student (and your parent/guardian) know as well. The address can be found here:

<http://teacherweb.com/NY/Arlington/Holzer>

Check this page often for updates and reminders!

Attendance Grade Policy

Every quarter you will earn an attendance grade. It is necessary to be in class in order to learn. The following explains how I arrive at the attendance grade:

Absent 0 times	=100
Absent 1 time	=99
Absent 2 times	=98
Absent 3 times	=95
Absent 4-5 times	=90
Absent 6-7 times	=83
Absent 8-9 times	=75
Absent 10-12 times	=60
Absent 13-15 times	=50
Absent 16-19 times	=25
Absent 20+ times	=0

So, by simply coming to class you are rewarded, and deservedly so, since there is no substitute for being part of an academic class. Besides, I am confident in the fact that you are enjoying this class... in an academic sense of course.

Oh, because I've had parents and students ask me about this, I'll address the issue of music lessons and field trips. If you are out of my class for a music lesson or a school approved field trip, you don't lose any points. I think the band teachers (and a few parents) would probably crucify me if this wasn't the case.

Plagiarism (the Dark Side of Education)

Over the years I've had many unfortunate run-ins with students plagiarizing. Here's the definition that is accepted as what exactly is plagiarism:

Plagiarism: Taking credit for someone else's idea is the equivalent of stealing and is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of our District Academic Ethics Code. "Plagiarism is defined as the appropriating and putting forth as one's own, the ideas, language or creation of another, without citing the correct sources [and] students at Arlington High School are expected to live up to the highest standard of academic honesty" (Arlington High School Handbook for Students 40). **It is unacceptable to copy something out of a book, newspaper, journal or any other printed or electronic source. The most blatant example of this is to directly copy something word for word. It does not matter if it is only a phrase, it is still plagiarism.**

See the bolded text? Re-read it a few times until it sinks in. If you are caught plagiarizing a paper, here is exactly what will happen: Your AP will be informed and given a copy of your paper as well as where you plagiarized from. My department head will then be informed you have plagiarized. After that, your parent/guardian will receive a phone call explaining that his/her child has been caught plagiarizing. Next, you will be informed and will receive a zero (0) as a grade. You do not get a rewrite. Pleading your case will not give you a second chance. The zero stands and hopefully you learned your lesson.

Harsh? Utterly. Justified? Without a shadow of a doubt. You have been warned.

And that as they says, is that. If you have any other questions, feel free to ask. I feel guilty not having filled up both sides of this sheet, so if you draw me a picture and or write a poem on the back, show it to me and I'll give you a free homework pass. No stick figures though.