

English IV (On-Level)

The English IV summer reading assignment is **optional**. Those who complete the summer assignment will receive extra credit on a major assessment during the first grading quarter.

Choose a novel from this LIST and write an essay of at least 600 words in response to your chosen book using one of the prompts listed below. Furthermore, you will be required to participate in a discussion group during the first week of school in which we will meet and discuss our chosen books. You should be prepared to discuss your book in detail during this session.

Your response should be a minimum of 600 words and in MLA format (i.e. MLA heading, Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced). You will submit your essay to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) on the first day of class.

1. How does the author use setting (time and place) as a means of social commentary?
2. What is the main conflict? How does this conflict cause character development OR develop theme?
3. Analyze one character and explain how he/she changes throughout the work. What does this character development say about the human condition?
4. Choose a passage from the work and explain how the author uses figurative language, diction, syntax, and/or tone to shape theme.
5. Choose one or two symbols that are prevalent throughout the work. How do the symbols help develop theme?

AP/DC English Literature and Composition

TASK 1: Read *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Book Details:

ISBN: 978-0679734505

To purchase on Amazon, click [HERE](#).

Note: You are required to purchase and read the copy listed above. This translation, by Pevear and Volokhonsky, is widely regarded as the most readable and lucid version available. We will be working with the book in class during the first few weeks of school, so it will also be helpful for us all to have the same version, too.

What is the assignment?

Read Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. As you read the novel, keep track of your thoughts and reactions to the work through a dialectical journal.

What is a dialectical journal?

The adjective “dialectical” can be defined as, “relating to the logical discussion of ideas and opinions.” The purpose, then, of a dialectical journal is to not only trace your thoughts as you read, but it also serves to help you identify especially interesting and/or significant sections and quotations in the text. In short, it is a way for you to take notes on what you are reading—it enables you to interact with the text and, in a way, have a *conversation* with it. We will be using your journals as a starting point for discussion by entering into a *dialectic*, which is defined as “the art of investigating or discussing the truth of opinions.” Because of this, be sure that you complete your journals carefully and thoroughly.

How do I complete my dialectical journal?

Identify a minimum of 18 key quotations/passages that you think are significant and/or interesting in the novel. There are six “books” within *Crime and Punishment*, so plan on completing at least three for each book. You may reference an event or moment from the novel that is longer than a single quote, in which case you will write a short summary of the scene. Otherwise, you must write out the quotation and include the page number in parentheses. Then, you will write an analysis (1 paragraph minimum) of the excerpt/scene

summary. You must type your journal on either a Google Doc or Word document. I recommend creating a double column word box and placing the quotation on one side and your response on the other (as shown in the example below). For your responses, remember that simple paraphrase and summary will not do. Think critically about the text by considering the author's style, other texts, the historical contexts, and the "how" and "what" of the passage.

How do I know what quotations or scenes are worth quoting and responding to?

Especially good responses make connections (think text-to-text connections or text-to-world—contemporary society, especially). I am also interested in quotations and responses that stick out to you for other reasons, too. But, if you are having a difficult time deciding what to include, remember that you can always comment on passage relating to specific characters, passages that include references to symbols, build or contribute to themes, or that demonstrate the style of the author. Comments on diction, tone, style, mood, are always good, too. All of your responses should reflect critical thinking and engagement with the text. AVOID PLOT SUMMARY. I'm looking for evidence of THINKING. You can always keep in mind the following ideas as you think about what quotations you wish to select:

- epiphany – seeing something you didn't see before; a "light bulb" moment
- character insights – motives, symbolic representation, reasons for conflicts/relationships
- recognition of patterns – overlapping images, repetitions of idea or details, structural or content shifts
- author's style – use of certain words, phrases, sentence structures, tone, etc.
- effective use of stylistic/literary devices – interpret imagery, figures of speech, symbols, allusions, etc. and give possible explanations
- realization of a deeper meaning or theme that is running throughout the novel

Please note the following:

- Record the quotations and your responses in chronological order
- If you want to simply read through the book without having to stop and write your responses, use sticky notes to mark the sections you wish to return to later after you have finished reading the book.
- You are not allowed to work collaboratively on this assignment with peers, and your responses should be completely original to you, not copied or paraphrased from the Internet. Plagiarizing on the summer assignment may result in you being dismissed from either the AP or DC course.
- Please print your responses and bring them with you to the first day of class

Sample Dialectical Journal Entry from *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

"By the door there was a dish filled with sweetened milk with little pieces of white bread floating in it. He was so pleased he almost laughed, as he was even hungrier than he had been that morning, and immediately dipped his head into the milk, nearly covering his eyes with it. But he soon drew his head back again in disappointment; not only did the pain in his tender left side make it difficult to eat the food – he was only able to eat if his whole body worked together as a snuffling whole – but the milk did not taste at all nice" (16).

This passage contains visual imagery (Gregor and bowl of food), auditory imagery ("almost" laughing) and symbolism (white milk, white bread, and [white] eyes). The imagery contributes to the brief and desperate sense of hope, which is immediately followed by repulsion because Gregor cannot drink the milk he longs to consume. The white imagery connotes purity because of Gregor's tainted and mutated state of being. The fact that he "dipped his head into the milk, almost to his eyes" might represent the desire to cleanse what he has seen he has become. He wants to "purify" himself in the remembrance of what he once was, in the drink that used to be his favorite. He has lost his identity and the things that used to bring him comfort because he has been transformed into a worker bug by mass society, which seems to be the recurrent theme of the short story.

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Task 2: Independent Reading

Choose and read a novel from the [AP Reading List](#), read it, annotate it, and write a short essay in response to it.

Please respond to **ONE** of the following prompts, applying it to your chosen novel. Your response should be a minimum of 600 words and written in MLA format (i.e. MLA heading, Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced.) See attached rubric.

1. How does the author use setting (time and place) as a means of social commentary?
2. What is the main conflict? How does this conflict cause character development OR develop theme?
3. Analyze one character and explain how he/she changes throughout the work. What does this character development say about the human condition?
4. Choose a passage from the work and explain how the author uses figurative language, diction, syntax, and/or tone to shape theme.
5. Choose one or two symbols that are prevalent throughout the work. How do the symbols help develop theme?

Note: You will submit your essays to turnitin.com on the first day of class.