

English III AP Language Summer Assignment

I. Please procure, read, and annotate your own paper copy of *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. The annotation guide handout (print this out!) will tell you how to annotate. Make sure you annotate thoroughly; just underlining or highlighting will not suffice--you need to take notes in the margins, react to what you read, question what does not make sense, pick out literary elements, etc. Your annotations will be checked for a grade on the first day of school. There will be a test and activities within the first two weeks of school. Do not consult any supplements such as Sparknotes, Shmoop, or the like; such actions are considered cheating.

II. Read the following three essays: “The Perfect Essay” by John Kaag, “The Age of the Essay” by Paul Graham, and “How do you know it’s good?” by Marya Mannes.

- a. Read and annotate the essays. Your notes should prepare you not only to fulfill the writing requirement listed in this section, but also to write analytically about the essays in class within the first week of school.
- b. Graham is highly critical of high schools’ instruction in essay writing. Choose two of his arguments from “The Age of the Essay” that you find most interesting. In a well-developed response (250-500 words), argue for or against his assertions, using examples from your own experiences as necessary. You must be adding to the argument—do not simply summarize what Graham says and add “I agree.”

- i. **This assignment must be emailed to Ms. McDonald (tmcdonald@covcath.org) by Wednesday, August 9.** You will receive an email back confirming receipt.

III. All necessary documents (the annotation guide as well as the three essays) are available on Ms. Baulch’s website: msbaulch.weebly.com.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to Ms. McDonald (tmcdonald@covcath.org) or Ms. Baulch (cbaulch@covcath.org). Have a safe summer!