To the 2011-2012 Advanced Placement Students:

Wahluke High School’s AP program is designed to challenge students above and beyond the expectations of the regular classroom. The AP workload is significantly greater and the learning much more challenging than in regular classes. The program is designed to prepare you for college-level instruction, and taking AP courses sends a powerful message to colleges and universities that you are a dedicated and motivated student.

The point of view and attitude that you should bring to your AP classes includes willingness to do the following:

- allow yourself to be challenged
- challenge yourself
- have a strong work ethic
- complete all assignments on time
- participate in class discussions
- show motivation and dedication

By meeting the following requirements, you may become part of the AP program:

1. Complete the summer work packet and turn it in at the beginning of the school year. No students will remain enrolled or be allowed to enroll in an AP or AP prep class if they have not satisfactorily completed the packet. If the final essay is unsatisfactory, then you will not be enrolled in AP.
2. Score above grade level on MAP testing (reading and language usage).
3. Maintain at least a 75% grade in the class. Students who receive lower than a 75% on two consecutive progress periods will be removed from the class.

I have read this letter and am ready to take on the challenge of AP/AP prep classes:

____________________________________  __________________________________  __________________________________
Student name                      Student signature                  Parent signature
We have provided you with a summer reading list, which is a guideline to be used in order to select your book. Whichever book you choose should be at or above your reading lexile and/or grade level. You may not re-read a book that you have read before, no matter whether it was for school or for pleasure. The intent of being in an AP-level class is that you should challenge yourself to undertake new adventures and experiences.

This essay is not a book report. Do not simply summarize the book. You need to analyze some aspect of the book and take your essay beyond. You are to respond to one of the prompts listed below. This is an opportunity for you to communicate intelligently and in an organized manner what your opinion is regarding one of these prompts. Use the text as support for your opinion, keeping in mind that the book is only a secondary source to support your thoughts. References to the book (quotes) should be integrated into your sentences or should be stated using an attributive tag with the author’s name (last name) and/or the name of the book, not “the text says.” At this level of education, essays need to be specific and not reliant on formulas.

Due date: the third day of class for the 2011-2012 school year.

**ESSAY PROMPTS**

1. **Journey:** In many works of literature, a physical journey - the literal movement from one place to another - plays a central role. Choose a novel, play, or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

2. **Power struggle:** One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a novel or a drama struggles to free him or herself or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

3. **Cultural value:** Novels and plays often depict characters caught between colliding cultures -- national, regional, ethnic, religious, institutional. Such collisions can call a character's sense of identity into question. Select Write about a character who responds to such a cultural collision. Then write a well-organized essay in which you describe the character's response and explain its relevance to the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

4. **Cause and effect relationships:** Within every book, there are conflicts that are brought about by the character’s personal growth. After reading your book, write about the reasons why two characters’ change in attitudes and emotions towards each other and society are driven by a variety of causes, and the following effects of those causes. Do not merely summarize the plot.
5. **Symbol:** A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

6. **Juxtaposition:** Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. Choose a novel or play that contrasts two such places. Write an essay explaining how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Keep in mind that we expect your work to be of a high quality. It should be very well-organized and should include plenty of details. You will find it helpful to create a shaping flow map or outline to organize your essay. A rough draft is required and should be different from your final draft. A final draft is not just a typed rough draft. You need to edit your rough draft for content, organization, clarity, fluency, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Your typed final draft should be in Times New Roman 12 point font with one-inch margins. It should be written with citations and a works cited page according to MLA guidelines (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/).

**SCORING RUBRIC**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete a pre-write (Circle map, Tree map, Double-Bubble Map, etc.)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use a Shaping Flow Map or outline to plan your essay</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write and edit a rough draft</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit a professional and complete typed final draft</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Total possible</td>
<td>500</td>
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Do your work carefully. Ask friends and family to read your rough draft; the simplest errors are the easiest to miss. Do not ruin your summer by waiting until the last possible minute to do this project. Write with determination and perception, and make your best effort.

Sincerely,
The Wahluke High School English department