

# English III/Advanced Placement Reading Assignment

## Summer Of 2009

Welcome to English III/Advanced Placement! We are looking forward to meeting you and feel confident that we will have a productive and enjoyable year. The English III/Advanced Placement curriculum emphasizes the study of American literature and provides college level studies for high school students who are ready to do college level work.

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1. Before the first day of class in August, purchase a copy of **The Great Gatsby** by **F. Scott Fitzgerald** and thoroughly read the entire book since you will probably be tested over the book in the first week. (If you have read the book early in the summer, review it immediately prior to attending class.)

Be knowledgeable about the following:

- Major characters
- Point of view, narrative voice, and tone
- Setting---year, seasons, geographic locations
- Any significant literary elements such as irony, foreshadowing, satire, and symbolism
- Conflicts
- Plot structure

Certainly you may make note of these elements of the novel as well as what seems to you to be significant passages and the reasons for the passages being significant. These notes will be useful during the first week of class.

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2. For additional suggestions about noting passages as you read, read Mortimer Adler's essay "**How to Mark a Book**" at <http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/adler.html>. We will discuss this essay the first week of class and will ask to see your book to observe how you have interacted with Fitzgerald's text.
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3. Complete the "**Newspaper/Magazine Editorial Assignment**" on the back of this sheet. Be prepared to submit this on the first day of class.
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Have a restful summer. We look forward to meeting you all in August and sharing a great year in Advanced Placement English.

## Newspaper / Magazine Editorial Reading Assignment

The focus of the English III/Advanced Placement course is understanding, analyzing, and writing non-fiction prose. This assignment gives you practice in reading and responding to essays and arguments.

- Over the summer, **read, clip and paste into your journal at least five editorials or commentaries / essays** (not news articles or informational features) from reputable newspapers or issues-based magazines (you should mix-and-match, using at least two different sources). All of these suggested newspapers and magazines can be found online.

Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines:

<i>The Nation</i> (magazine)	<i>The Boston Globe</i> (newspaper)
<i>The New York Times</i> (newspaper)	<i>The Washington Post</i> (newspaper)
<i>The New Yorker</i> (magazine)	<i>Atlantic Monthly</i> (magazine)
<i>Harper's</i> (magazine)	<i>The Economist</i> (magazine)
<i>Mother Jones</i> (magazine)	<i>Salon.com</i> (online magazine)

Examples of newspapers/magazines that are **not** recommended:

<i>USA Today</i> (newspaper)	<i>Seventeen</i> (magazine)
<i>People</i> (magazine)	<i>US Weekly</i> (magazine)

- Purchase a bradded folder to keep this assignment in. **You will be submitting this folder in the first week of school.**
- In the bradded folder, **comment on the aspects of each of the editorials** that made you think, and your thoughts about the editorial or the issues – one response per editorial. These responses should be approximately one typed page in length, and your responses should be thoughtful and detailed.

Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:

- Do you agree or disagree with the editorial's viewpoints? Why?
- Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
- What are some of the author's best arguments? What makes them good?
- Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
- How does this editorial connect with other knowledge that you have from other sources?
- Anything else this editorial makes you think about?