**2012—’13 Advanced Placement Literature and Composition**

**~Summer Reading Assignment~**

In preparation for A.P. Literature and Composition in the fall, you are required to complete the following summer reading assignment:

**~The Books~**

Read the books in the following order:

1. How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster
2. Macbeth by William Shakespeare

As you read both books, **read actively**. Underline, *highlight*, and make comments in the margins.

**~The Response Papers~**

In order for me to gauge your writing strengths and weaknesses, you must complete three (3) 1½ - 2 page response papers (4 ½ - 6 total pages of writing). Choose three of the following prompts to compose your response papers:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how responsible is Macbeth for the many deaths that occur in the play? Analyze specific moments in the play that support your claim. (1 = not responsible at all, 10 = completely responsible).
2. Compare and contrast the roles of Lady Macbeth and Lady Macduff in the play. Pay particular attention to their language and actions. Develop an argument based on these two women. (In class, we will analyze Shakespeare’s presentation of gender in the play).
3. After King Duncan’s murder, Lady Macbeth claims, “A little water clears us of this deed” (2.2.86). Her words resonate even more based on future events in the play. Based on your analysis of the play, what evidence can you use to ***disprove*** her words?
4. Carefully read Chapter 2 of How to Read Literature Like a Professor. How does Foster’s chapter relate to the banquet scene from Macbeth? Clearly state your case by analyzing the events of the banquet scene.

**NOTE:** In the fall, you will choose one of these prompts and expand your response into a larger, formal essay.

**Requirements for Response Papers—please adhere to the Reavis Writing Handbook standards**

* a proper heading on each response paper
* black, Times New Roman, 12 point font with standard margins
* a sophisticated thesis as the last sentence of your introductory paragraph
  + the thesis serves as the most important sentence of your essay: choose your argument wisely
  + avoid the simplistic three-point thesis/five-paragraph essay format
  + after each body paragraph, ask yourself the following question: “Have I fully supported my thesis throughout this paragraph?”
* topic sentences that adequately introduce the content of the paragraphs that follow
  + after each body paragraph, also ask yourself: “Does my topic sentence truly anticipate the content that follows, or does my paragraph move in a direction that warrants my changing of the topic sentence?”
* appropriate, direct quotations from Macbeth to support your claims
* appropriate, direct quotations from How to Read Literature Like a Professor (if necessary for the prompt) to support your claims
* an appropriate introduction and a conclusion that does not simply regurgitate the introduction

*When citing passages from a play, use the following format which includes proper punctuation and correct parenthetical citations:*

**EXAMPLE:** As Duncan approaches Macbeth’s castle, he ironically states, “This castle hath a pleasant seat. The air / Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself / Unto our gentle senses” (1.6.1-3). Note the use of capitalization for the lines and the use of the / for the ends of lines. The numbers in parentheses indicate the Act, Scene, and Line Number(s).

**~The Test~**

Within the first few days of class, there will be a comprehensive exam on How to Read Literature Like a Professor. As you read the book, **circle the titles of novels/plays/poems that you would like to read over the course of the year**. We will discuss these.

**Due Date:** The first day of school in the fall (100 points). Late response papers will not be accepted. We will discuss the books over the first few classes of the school year. Be prepared!

If you encounter any difficulties with your writing over the course of the summer, feel free to e-mail me at [fkeller@d220.org](mailto:fkeller@d220.org). I will be more than happy to help you along.

Good luck!