Mr. Collin Salisbury

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**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to develop and refine your ability to read, write, speak, and think effectively and critically at a high level, preparing you for the rigors of college and beyond. It will adhere to the guidelines set by the College Board’s Advanced Placement Course Description and prepare you to score highly on the AP Exam. A majority of the challenging non-fiction reading material will come from *The Norton Reader* (shorter twelfth edition) provided for each student. Other fiction, poetry and non-fiction titles will receive significant attention as well; among the possible selections will be *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman, *selections* from *Walden* and *Civil Disobedience* by Henry David Thoreau,and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, as well as, *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer, *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. For all material, the emphasis will be on understanding each author’s rhetorical and linguistic strategies, effects, and choices as opposed to gaining an overarching comprehension of their place in the literary canon.

The course will be separated into three major units that reflect the make-up of the AP Language and Composition Exam: **Rhetorical Analysis**, **Synthesis/Exposition**, and **Argument** as well as a final Narrative unit at the end of the year. Though each unit will have a primary focus, elements of the others will blend in during each unit. For example, there will be ample rhetorical analysis while studying expository techniques and plenty of synthesizing when focusing on argument. Units will cover a variety of subjects, but will all focus on an element of American life including, but not limited to religion, politics, the media, art, literature, popular culture, and history. Each unit will inform the subsequent unit: for example, you will develop your analytical skills during the Rhetorical Analysis unit in order to report, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize during the Synthesis/Exposition unit as a means to composing sophisticated arguments during the Argument Unit. By the end of the year this work will evolve into a complex study of narrative techniques where you analyze and evaluate rhetorical and linguistic strategies and put them into practice in your own autobiographical writing during a Narrative unit. Throughout the entire year, you will develop close-reading strategies that will enhance your ability to analyze and evaluate authorial style. You will practice short, informal journal writing to develop awareness of your own cognitive processes and apply them to long, formal essay writing that moves beyond the limiting format of the 5-paragraph essay. You will develop research skills that enable you to evaluate primary and secondary sources as a means to synthesize information, and, during the Argument Unit, present an argument of your own. You will study visual images and graphics via visual art, theatre, dance, photography, film, video, television, and political cartoons to supplement your study of analysis, exposition, argument, and narrative. You will receive, throughout the entire year, intensive practice in grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and rhetorical strategies to improve your written and verbal skills.

**Assignment Types:**

* **Essays**
* **Oral and Visual Presentations**

# Paragraphs

* **Research**
* **Vocabulary Quizzes**
* **Grammar and Syntax Quizzes**

Many of our essays will be shared with me through Google drive where there will be feedback and opportunity for revision. Other assignments may be done entirely in class; including: quizzes, timed writes and presentations.

**Supplies:**

* Notebook dedicated to this class
* Pen/Pencil
* An open mind
* Electronic Devices where applicable

**Expectations:**

Please arrive prepared for class and ready to engage. Much of our class is discussion based, so if in the past you have been reluctant to share in class, please challenge yourself to get into the conversation. Every voice matters!

* Be Involved
* Be Responsible
* Be Respectful
* Be a Graduate

**Grades**:

Please be sure you have access to PowerSchool. As a young adult, YOU are responsible for your education. Stay informed and keep me informed of any absences and/or make-up work that you need to complete.

90-100% A 60-69% D

80-89% B Below 59% is failing

70-79% C