

January 11, 2016

Dear AP English Literature and Composition Participants:

I am excited about returning to Western Kentucky University to work with you as you participate in the summer institute for beginning AP teachers. I will do all I can to make your week both fun and helpful.

I have taught AP English at Watauga High School in Boone, NC, and at the Career Center in Winston-Salem, NC. For the last six years of my classroom teaching, I was fortunate to be at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, NC, where I taught five sections of AP classes and served as mentor and lead AP English Literature teacher for the school system. I have worked as a College Board consultant since 1980; I became a reader of AP English Literature exam essays in 1993 and then a table leader in 2003. I am a National Board Certified Teacher in Adolescent/Young Adult English/Language Arts and a past president of the NC English Teachers Association; I spent a year as a Practitioner-in-Residence at ASU. Since 2011, I have worked as an AP mock exam scoring consultant for Laying the Foundation and as a teacher mentor and student study session leader for NMSI.

We will follow the syllabus but also allow time for your questions and needs. My goal is for you to leave on July 1 feeling both comfortable and confident that you are ready to begin teaching AP English Literature. I promise that you will work hard in this role; but you will never be bored, and you will have fun. You will, I hope, welcome the challenge and enjoy the excitement of teaching an AP course. The best part of my teaching career came from the never-ending challenges of teaching AP English, and I am sure that I stayed in teaching because of those personal and professional challenges and the phenomenal students and parents I worked with each year.

I will request many sample AP English textbooks so you can see the wealth of materials available to you. If you already have your texts for the course, please bring them to class. If your job is to select the texts, you will have the opportunity to examine them before deciding which ones will work best for you. If you are not sure what text you will use, you may use one of the samples as we plan teaching strategies. If you already have a course syllabus, bring it; if you want to modify it or if you need to begin work on your syllabus, bring a copy of your 2016-2017 school calendar. You may want to bring copies of the longer works you plan to teach. Former summer institute participants have told me that having a year-long syllabus ready before school started gave them both confidence and extra time since the planning for the year was complete.

Please bring three different colors of markers, pens, or pencils to use in class as we work with sample student essays. Most participants use a three-ring binder to organize the week's handouts.

If you have questions, please e-mail me at sdaye@bellsouth.net or call me at 336-584-3922. I look forward to seeing you in June.

Sincerely,

Sandra B. Daye