



El Dorado Union High School District
OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School
No Child Left Behind~Blue Ribbon School

1120 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills, California 95762
(916) 933-6980 or (530) 677-4402 Fax (916) 933-6987

Dear AP Student:

Congratulations on your enrollment in the AP Language and Composition course. The goal of this class is to give you strategies to use in all the writing you will do in college, in your professional life, and in your personal life. You will be asked to read widely, think creatively, write perceptively, speak thoughtfully, and achieve competence in grammar and Standard English usage. In preparation for the Advanced Placement Examination, you will be studying the rhetorical devices and strategies used by professional writers to effectively communicate and will practice integrating those strategies into your own writing. **During the summer, you will be required to read the following:**

- .. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- .. “This is Water” by David Foster Wallace

We have chosen these books not only because we feel they are examples of excellent writing, but also because the College Board and the California State Department of Education recommend each book for high school reading. They have both been suggested books for analysis and multiple-choice selections on both the AP Language exam and the AP Literature exam. **These books will provide the basis for in-class analysis and discussion during the first weeks of school next year.**

We strongly suggest that when you read the books over the course of the summer that you keep a reader’s journal on each book. **During the second week of classes, you will take a test on both books that will assess your knowledge of the themes, characters, plot, setting, and significant details of *Catcher in the Rye*, and the rhetorical strategies used by the author of “This is Water”.**

Please know that you *are not* required to read or view material you personally find objectionable. If you choose, you may pick alternative books from the recommended reading list for high school students published and available online from either the College Board or the California State Department of Education. If you decide to read a book or books of your own choosing, please send your teacher an e-mail (mcoovelis@eduhd.k12.ca.us; spitts@eduhd.k12.ca.us) informing him of your choices.

We look forward to meeting you in August!

Warm regards,

Mr. Pitts (spitts@eduhd.k12.ca.us)

Mr. Coovelis (mcoovelis@eduhd.k12.ca.us)

“A Place of Teaching and Learning”