



Diploma Program English A
Language and Literature SL

Summer Assignment 2016

Welcome to the Diploma Program! The Language and Literature course is rigorous but also very rewarding.

Over this summer, you will read one drama and view one film:

Drama
Antigone by Sophocles

Film
Amelie by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (director)

You will be expected to **annotate** the drama and keep a **viewing journal** on the film.

Annotations and journals will be given a courtesy assessment (not a recorded grade) on the first day of school.

You will be **tested** on summer assignment within the first two weeks of school.

For both summer works, pay particular attention to:

different **connotations** of words or phrases
repeated images, words, and concepts
authorial intent and **plot manipulation**
relationships between characters
possible **symbolic meanings**
shifts in **tone** and **setting**

Viewing Notes

You will maintain viewing notes for *Amelie*.

Your task is to keep track of characters, actions, uses of language, sensory appeals, motifs and other recurring concepts. You should also write some narrative reflections on thematic content and ways by which the film appeals to you.

You will submit the reading journal and viewing notes in one packet. Writing must be legible and sections must be clearly marked. Notes may be hand-written or word processed.

Suggested length for viewing notes is 500 words for the entire film.

Note that the above number is only a **suggestion**. You might write more or less. You will be scored on depth of analysis rather than number of words. Become familiar with that concept: In the Diploma Program, scores are earned from depth of ideas and how you apply concepts, not on the number of pages you produce.

Annotations

You will annotate *Antigone*. This means that you will write in the book itself.

Look inside the word **annotation** and you find the word **note**. That is what annotating is—taking notes about what you read while you read it. The main goal for annotating is to interact closely with the text: You must learn to do more than read texts to achieve success in this course. Get used to reading and re-reading each work if you expect to succeed.

Annotating can be a frustrating at first because it is not always clear what is important in a given work. With **practice** and **experience**, you will become an effective annotator. Do not expect to master this skill over the summer; **do** try to practice it to your best ability.

Things to avoid while annotating

Paraphrasing the text; expletives about how you (dis)like characters; restating the plot; and excessive commentary. Avoid using highlighters. **Do** ask questions, **do** draw arrows, **do** draw symbols, and **do** use the entire page.

If it seems too much to expect, worry not. You will eventually be able to reflect on your summer works and appreciate them at deeper and more meaningful levels. I look forward to seeing you in Language and Literature next year!

Questions?

Contact Mr. Spiegel, English Department Coordinator
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