

May 13, 2009

Incoming AP English Language Students,

The incoming AP English Language summer assignment is to read *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser and to read and annotate *How Not to Write* by William Safire.

*On Writing Well* is the first work we will discuss in class; We would like to “hit the ground running” by *not* taking time out of first semester to read it.

Annotation involves reading actively. We would like students to highlight passages in *How Not to Write* they regard as important or about which they have questions. Write notes in the margins describing reactions to the material highlighted.

Students will read but *not* annotate *On Writing Well*. Students also need *not* read the entire part of the book labeled “Section III: Forms.” This section goes into detail about nine different areas of specialized writing. Pick one of these specialized areas (literary nonfiction, the interview, travel writing, the memoir, science writing, business writing, sports writing, criticism, or humor) and read it thoroughly. The section chosen will be the basis for an assignment in September.

Consult the attached rubric for more information about annotation. On the first day of class, we will collect the copies of Safire and grade the annotations using this rubric.

Any student with questions should seek out Mr. Bottiglieri in room 144.

Looking forward to next year, we remain



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