

English III AP Summer Assignment

That's right, you're in AP English now! To get you geared up, your summer assignment comes, in part, from this year's AP English Language and Composition Exam.

Here's one of the prompts from this year's exam:

"In his 2004 book, Status Anxiety, Alain de Botton argues that the chief aim of humorists is not merely to entertain but to 'convey with impunity messages that might be dangerous or impossible to state directly.' Because society allows humorists to say things that other people cannot or will not say, de Botton sees humorists as serving a vital function in society.

"Think about the implications of de Botton's view of the role of humorists (cartoonists, stand-up comics, satirical writers, hosts of television programs, etc.). Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies de Botton's claim about the vital role of humorists. Use specific, appropriate evidence to develop your position."

Here's what YOU need to do:

1. Write an essay of at least 500 words in length that addresses the prompt above (type it if possible).
2. Select at least one source (cartoon, stand-up comedy routine, satirical essay, television program, etc.) that supports your argument.
3. Bring your essay *and* your source with you on the SECOND DAY of school (you can bring it the first day, but you don't need it until the second).
4. Create a list of at least 10 new vocabulary words, their definitions, and original sentences based on this prompt, your source, and/or your essay. These can be any words about whose meaning you're unclear. " You can do an internet search for "SAT vocabulary" and find many lists. The PSAT will be here before you know it!

Some things you might want to know:

- A. To DEFEND an argument means to agree with it and to explain why it is correct, valid, or reasonable.
- B. To CHALLENGE an argument means to disagree with it and to explain why it is incorrect, invalid, or unreasonable.
- C. To QUALIFY an argument means to agree with part but not all of it and to explain how it would need to be changed, modified, adapted, or better supported in order to be fully correct.
- D. This is about your opinion so take a stand!!!

If you have questions about this assignment, feel free to email me at abarne@neisd.net. I will be traveling in Brazil this summer, but will try to respond to you as promptly as possible. If you would like to follow my travels, you can read my blog at adelerighthere.wordpress.com.

Have a great summer and see you in August!