

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! I am already excited to begin our journey together next year, and I can't wait to meet you. To begin this thrilling trip into the study of rhetoric, please be prepared when you return to school by reading the following selections:

Into the Wild by Krakauer

Nickel and Dimed by Ehrenreich

Walden by Thoreau

These non-fiction selections are intended to be thought provoking, and you may disagree (or agree!) heartily with the sentiments expressed. Remember those thoughts by thoroughly annotating your books (sticky notes work well with library copies) so that our class discussions will be productive. We will also be examining **how** these authors communicate their themes. So close reading is a must to determine how the writers use specific words, expressions, or patterns in their writing to communicate their ideas and purposes for writing. (For pointers on close reading, check out <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/boost-your-skills/189995.html>)

In addition to reading these wonderful books, you will also be required to write a draft of your college admissions essay. "Your" college is a relative term; some colleges do not require an admissions essay or substitute a group of short answers in lieu of a formal essay. For this class, I expect you to answer a formal essay question. If the college you intend to apply to does not require an essay for your application, please use the questions from the University of Chicago.

(<https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/admissions/essays.shtml>)

Please also note that a draft for me must be typed, in MLA format, and has been through revisions and proofreading. It must be almost done. Follow the college's guidelines for the length of your essay, but write no more than 750 words. If you want to know how many paragraphs that is, I'll tell you to prove your thesis. You should have your "almost done" essay on the **first** day of class. I'll be collecting it. I should also tell you that after teaching Honors English for the last few years, I know the reactions of students when facing an essay, especially the first one of the school year. Please refrain from paralyzing yourself with fear about how to approach this essay. Do your best. A rubric is printed on the reverse to guide you in writing your draft.

I am here to help you should you have questions. Feel free to send an email (keel@wlake.org) if problems with your reading or writing assignment arise. Don't be shy; I like to help students!

Have an enjoyable summer and I'll see you in August. I can't wait to get started.

Best,

Ann Marie Keel

Your AP English Language and Composition Teacher

Name: _____ Score: _____

College Essay Rubric

Element	Score		
	1 = not at all	2=to some extent	3= successfully
<p>Writing is adapted to purpose and audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conveys an accurate understanding of the topic, audience, and purpose for the writing task <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates a mature an in-depth understanding of the audience and adapts writing to appeal to a college admissions office. <input type="checkbox"/> Holds a reader’s attention by writing authentically, in the writer’s unique voice 	1	2	3
<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is developed with specific examples such as personal anecdotes, facts, or opinions to illustrate the overall point of the essay <input type="checkbox"/> Details are arranged in the best order to support the main ideas 	1	2	3
<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is focused on a single, clear thesis or reflection <input type="checkbox"/> Transitions within and between paragraphs show clear relationships between ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Writer uses effective topic sentences to introduce the main idea of each body paragraph <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas flow logically in support of the thesis or reflection 	1	2	3
<p>Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writer uses appropriate connotations of words <input type="checkbox"/> Writer uses specific nouns and verbs <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is clear <input type="checkbox"/> There is a smooth flow of thought from sentence to sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Includes different types and lengths of sentences 	1	2	3
<p>Grammar and Mechanics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is generally free of errors that interfere with meaning. <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is obviously proofread 	1	2	3