Summer Work

- Prepare for College Entrance Exams (Superintendent’s Scholars, online websites, Princeton Review, Sylvan, practice books, Kahn Academy, etc.).
- Read *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.
  - You will have a test on the book at the beginning of the second week of school.
  - You must complete the reading/annotation questions before the test.
- Begin keeping up with public discourse (what’s going on in the world). You will have weekly current events quizzes during the school year.
- Explore College Board and ACT websites to familiarize yourself with their offerings.

Important Websites

- www.collegeboard.com (PSAT/SAT/AP information)
- www.actstudent.org (ACT)

Important Dates for 2019-2020 School Year

- PSAT given at school: Wednesday, October 16
- AP Language Exam: Wednesday, May 13
- Look online for ACT/SAT test opportunities throughout the year.

Supplies Needed

- General reading/writing/annotation supplies: pens, loose leaf paper, notebook, post-it notes, highlighters, etc.
- Outside reading books¹ as requested by teacher (can be checked out of library or purchased by you).
- AP Exam fee: The AP Lang. Exam will cost LISD students $45 for the 2019-2020 school year.

What to Expect

You are going to read and write *a lot* in this class. The focus of AP English Language and Composition is rhetoric/argumentation, which means that the primary mode of reading/writing for this class is nonfiction: history, biography, memoir, literary nonfiction, etc.

Expect to read at least one assigned book outside of class every six weeks (200-400 pages or so). In addition to outside reading books, you will also have shorter weekly reading assignments of various arguments, essays, articles, etc. You are also expected to become a devotee of what is going on in the world; establishing a regular habit of processing/understanding the news (watching, reading, listening, whatever) is a critical life skill. Current events quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, and reading tests/quizzes will occur on a regular basis.

On average, you will write at least one in-class timed writing per week (two to three handwritten pages) as well as various outlines, homework, etc. You will also write one major research paper in the course of the year (1000 words or more).

Lubbock ISD has a new policy on PreAP/AP classes for the 2019-2020 school year: *There are NO drops/schedule changes to “regular” classes from weighted classes in the first six weeks.* Consider this carefully before committing to any weighted class.

¹ Sample titles only; do not purchase these yet, as the list may have adjustments and modifications: *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell, *Stiff* by Mary Roach, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by Oliver Sacks, *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls OR *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo OR *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser, others.
About In Cold Blood
On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues.

As Truman Capote reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, he generates both mesmerizing suspense and astonishing empathy. In Cold Blood is a work that transcends its moment, yielding poignant insights into the nature of American violence.

About Truman Capote
Truman Streckfus Persons (September 30, 1924 – August 25, 1984), known as Truman Capote, was an American author, screenwriter, playwright, actor, many of whose short stories, novels, plays, and nonfiction are recognized literary classics, including the novella Breakfast at Tiffany's (1958) and the true crime novel In Cold Blood (1966), which he labeled a "nonfiction novel." At least 20 films and television dramas have been produced of Capote novels, stories, and plays.

Capote rose above a childhood troubled by divorce, a long absence from his mother, and multiple migrations. He discovered his calling as a writer by the age of 11, and for the rest of his childhood he honed his writing ability. Capote began his professional career writing short stories. Capote earned the most fame with In Cold Blood, a journalistic work about the murder of a Kansas farm family in their home. Capote spent four years writing the book aided by his lifelong friend Harper Lee, who wrote To Kill a Mockingbird (1960).

About the Instructor
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My name is Shawn Coughlon. I’m very serious about the courses I teach, both AP English Language & Composition as well as AP Seminar. This fall will mark my twelfth year teaching high school, my ninth year teaching AP Lang., and my fourth year teaching AP Seminar (the AP Capstone Diploma Program has existed for six years, total). I have been a reader for AP Lang. as well as a reader and table leader for AP Seminar; this means that I contract through ETS (the company that actually produces the test) to work for College Board in the summer and score AP exams on a national level. I’m also a College Board Consultant, which means I instruct other teachers in how to conduct AP classes; I’ve also attended lots of College Board workshops and summer institutes - this translates into a week or three every summer and a weekend or two during the school year. The reason I’m willing to dedicate so much of my time to these programs is that I believe in them; these two classes do more to get students ready to succeed in college than any other high school courses. Period. I firmly believe this; I also firmly believe that a teacher who doesn’t believe that the course he or she teaches is the most important class in the building, whatever that class may be, doesn’t feel strongly enough about that class.

I’ve spent the last eleven years teaching at Coronado High School, so this will be my first year at Lubbock High as a teacher; I actually graduated from LHS way back in 1998, so I’m not a complete stranger to the school and its ways and/or culture. I bounced around a little bit in my college years, starting out as an IT/Business major at Marquette University, and ending up with an English degree from Texas Tech and a graduate certificate in Education from Shenandoah University in Virginia (long story). I’ve taught every grade from middle school through high school; I actually even spent two years as a kindergarten teacher (even longer story). You’ll find that my diverse background and experience make for an interesting and eclectic classroom environment. You’ll also find that my expectations for student performance are extremely high.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you this fall.