

AP Language and Composition

Summer Assignment, Assignment due September 6th

Part One: Read *On Writing* by Stephen King (ISBN# 0743455967) and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (ISBN# 1400052173)

Part Two: See below

In this summer assignment, you will examine your own writing process, perhaps using as a guide the questions that appear later on this page as well as your experiences as a student at TJHSST.

You may focus your paper in a variety of ways:

- You might describe how you go about writing in general.
- You might focus on a piece of writing that you've completed recently.
- You might focus your essay in an entirely different way, bringing in information or perspectives that emerged as a result of your writing, reading, or discussion throughout your first three years here.

You can reflect on either your creative writing process or your academic writing process...or both!

The following questions might help you find a focus or suggest details for your essay. Don't feel as if you need to answer all of the questions, and **don't use the structure of the questions as the structure for your essay**. You should decide to use your answers to the questions for your actual essay if they reveal interesting insights or stories about your experience with writing. In other words, choose those that seem interesting or relevant to you, and shape the information in a way that helps you to develop your main point in an effective way:

- When you're confronted with a writing task, how do you approach it? Do you spend days fretting about it? Immediately jot down ideas and then start playing with them? Think for days and then produce a first draft at one sitting?
- And how do you go about actually producing a draft? Do you carefully assemble specific materials--like three sharp pencils and a legal size pad? Don comfortable clothes--perhaps a favorite sweatshirt--and sit down at the computer? Create an introduction that "will suffice" and then rework the introduction later? Write, pace the floor a bit, write again, pace again?
- If you use a computer as you write, when during the various stages of the writing process do you use the computer, and specifically how do you use the computer to help you?
- Do you write with the advice of a particular person--maybe a former teacher--echoing as you compose?
- Define revision. What role does revision play in your writing process?
- When do you begin to consciously consider your audience? From the outset? As you revise your first draft?
- Do you seek the advice of others as you write? Do you read or show people drafts or parts of drafts? What kinds of feedback do you look for? When others give you suggestions, how do you factor them in? At what point in the process do you seek this advice?
- How do you feel when you've completed the paper? Are you simply glad it's done? Are you convinced that one more pass would produce a better paper? How do you know when a piece of writing is finished?

Additionally, you should include a one-page reflection on your summer reading assignment, *On Writing* by Stephen King. In this reflection, you should connect King's book to your own experiences with writing. Clearly, you don't have to cover the **entire** book in one page; instead, as you read, make note of things that strike you as meaningful to your own experiences and reflect on one or more of those connections.

Assignment should be 3-4 pages typed (total includes your one-page reflection), double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins on all sides.

If you have questions, please contact Erinn Harris (Erinn.Harris@fcps.edu) or Jennifer Seavey (Jennifer.Seavey@fcps.edu).