

Application for Advanced Placement English 12 (Language and Composition)

Name _____

Current English Teacher's Name _____

Current English teacher's recommendation _____

Current Average in English this year¹ _____



Note to applicant: This application helps me assess whether the course you have requested is a good choice for you. Please take it seriously and be as honest as possible. Answer the following questions on your own paper (hand-written or typed). Also include your letter to Cynthia Ozick with your application. Use this sheet as a cover page for your application.

- What is the first thought that comes into your mind when a teacher says it's time to read or write an essay?
- This course has almost no fiction in it, and we will read essays and books of non-fiction almost exclusively? Tell whether that bothers you. Honestly. Will you miss reading poetry or fiction?
- Are you willing to read very difficult texts and are you willing to look up words and phrases and references you've never heard of? This is a big part of this course, and we read at least two very difficult philosophical texts.
- Are you willing to read your own writing in front of a small group of students or perhaps in front of the class?
- What is the best piece of non-fiction you can remember? Essay, article, or biography, etc.

Read the essay by Cynthia Ozick entitled, "She: Portrait of an Essay as a Warm Body."ⁱ **Write** a two-page letter about your understanding of what essays are and what they do to readers. Write the letter to Ms. Ozick and attempt to coerce her assent if you disagree with her. If you agree, tell her what you agree with. Remember that she says essays are about the "free mind at play." Remember that many times, convincing people to see your view is not a competition, but a conversation. Consider the following:

"It [the essay] co-opts agreement; it courts agreement; it seduces agreement. For the brief hour we give to it, we are sure to fall into surrender and conviction. And this will occur even if we are intrinsically roused to resistance."

- Is Ozick right? Do essays coerce assent? Has she made claims about essays that you don't agree with?
- Was there anything in the essay that goes counter to what you have been taught about essay writing?
- In what ways is Ozick convincing? How did she use exceptional language to coerce you?
- What techniques did she use to move you toward her view of essays?
- Does her own essay fit the definition of what she says an essay is?
- What do you think of her analogy comparing an essay to a warm female body? Does this analogy work?

Keep your letter under two pages typed. We will not be sharing them with her; we will read them in class.

Deadline for Application:

Friday, April 1, 2022

If you cannot meet this deadline, please email me at fairchildD@apcsd.org. In the email, explain when you will have it done. Also pick up a copy of the summer assignment after completing the application. They will be in room 211 or Ms. DiGrigoli will have some. Please be aware that everyone is eligible to take the AP exam in Language and Composition. There is also CGCC college credit available.

If you have questions, feel free to find me in room 211. Hand your **completed** application to me or to your English teacher. Be sure to have your current English teacher sign the recommendation before handing it in. This signature indicates that your teacher has talked with you about the course and whether you are well prepared for this course.

Please also be aware that if you are accepted into 12AP, you will have a summer assignment (it is really great...).

Upon reading your application, I will meet with students whose applications demonstrate that they might not be prepared for this course.

ⁱ <https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/98sep/ozick.htm>

¹ Please give your average in English 11 (AP or R) using the first three quarters.