

AP ENGLISH III AMLITBALL: BATTING PRACTICE



You've hit a homerun by signing with the AP English III team! This summer it's time to get in shape for the upcoming season of American Literature that awaits you at BHS for the 2015-2016 school year. Before the year begins, you need to take some batting practice. After a year of world literature, you may need to take some weighted swings with a multi-colored Marruci. Get in shape for our upcoming season by reading, analyzing, and writing about two pieces of American Literature---one dramatic fiction, the other a persuasive non-fiction. You will need a composition book dedicated as your dialectical score book for use not only with this assignment, but for the year (you may add to last year's). Any player on the team who fails to hit a homerun (complete this assignment) may be cut from the team. Your homerun essay will be scored on how well and how far you can hit the ball out of the park with your writing prowess. Not only will your individual stats be tracked, but a team score will also be posted on the classroom scoreboard at the conclusion of our Summer Reading Batting practice. What better way to refresh our skills for American Literature than with the metaphor of America's favorite pastime---baseball! Consider this your pre-season chance to prove you belong on the AP Language & Composition team this year! Anticipate an assessment over the materials the first day of class! Readings and dialecticals are DUE the first day of school, crime stories are due 9/1/15.



BATTER UP: Everyone will use the same bat to ensure a fair batting practice. Read the drama *12 Angry Men* by Reginald Rose & the synthesized argument *5,000 Year Leap* by Cleon Skouson. Pros prefer to purchase their own bats, rather than rely on team equipment. The entire line-up will bat, no pinch hitters!



1st BASE: As you read, maintain ten color-coded dialectical notes with commentary for *12 Angry Men* in a composition book that trace the process of the justice system. Include five items that prove it is an accurate portrayal of the American court system. For the remaining five, convey prime examples of persuasive language (rhetoric). Be sure to offer insightful commentary explaining the significance of each.



2nd BASE: As you read, maintain ten color-coded dialectical notes with commentary for *5,000 Year Leap* in a composition book that prove it is a synthesized argument. Include five examples of different sources utilized by Skouson by recording quotes that directly reference other works. In your commentary, defend, refute, or qualify the use of each source. For the remaining dialecticals, identify five different claims the author makes in his piece by quoting Skousen's beliefs. In your commentary, defend, refute, or qualify each of his arguments.



3rd BASE: Research a true crime in American History that fascinates you. Record notes on the crime in your dialectical composition book. Cite your sources in MLA format in your composition book. Use at least three sources. The links below may help get you started. Need help citing sources? Download the free easybib app, or use the on-line tools of easybib, bibme, or noodlebib.

<http://www.oyez.org/>

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/>

<http://karisable.com/courthis.htm>

<http://www.aapsonline.org/judicial/toptentrials.htm>

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm>

<http://www.awesomestories.com/famous-trials>



HOME PLATE: Showcase your knowledge of literature by composing your own crime story based on the true crime you researched. You may either fictionalize that crime in your own dramatization of the incident, OR you can choose to commentate on the events of the crime in a synthesized argument utilizing the style of Cleon Skouson as inspiration.

Your crime story should be typed in double-spaced Times New Roman twelve-point font. It should not exceed fifteen pages nor be less than five pages. You must include an MLA formatted bibliography for your research sources. Be sure to include your literary pieces in the bibliography, since they were your creative inspirations.

Upload your final draft with the works cited into your google chrome folder before midnight the first day of school. A bonus five points will be awarded for stories entered BEFORE the first bell of school.



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The summer reading will be DUE the first day of class (Monday, August 24, 2015)! No late work will be accepted. Composition books will be evaluated for three daily grades (by base), while your crime story will be scored for a major grade. You can anticipate additional fieldwork using your summer reading work the first few weeks of school for additional daily and major grades. Note that your crime story is not due until Tuesday, September 1st midnight. You will be assigned the appropriate major grade score below for your story based on the hit of your homerun! The first number listing is the AP score for our class scorebook, the final percentage score is the grade that will be posted in the grade book. A bonus five points will be awarded to crime stories submitted before the deadline date (9/1/2015).



FOUL BALL: You may have hit it out of the park, but it was outside the field of play.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 0 | Not based on a true American crime, and/or is incomplete/unfinished | 50% |
| 1 | No crime research evident, and/or genre is not correct (play or narrative NF) | 55% |



HR
RBI: 1

SOLO HOMER: Congratulations, you hit it out of the park!

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 2 | Little storytelling, lists facts or ideas without development, errors dominate | 60% |
| 3 | Limited storytelling, attempted development but weak/forced, full of errors | 65% |



HR
RBI: 2

TWO RUN HOMER: Not only did you hit it out of the park, but you brought in a runner!

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 4 | Inadequate storytelling, research evident but needs more, errors distract | 70% |
| 5 | Uneven storytelling, unbalanced development, repeating errors | 75% |



HR
RBI: 3

THREE RUN HOMER: You hit it out of the park, and brought in two runners!

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 6 | Adequate storytelling, appropriate use of research, developed, minor errors | 80% |
| 7 | Thorough storytelling, well-written plot, research depth, minimal errors | 85% |



HR
RBI: 4

GRAND SLAM: Congratulations! You hit a grand slam!

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 8 | Effective storytelling, well-focused plot, excellent characterization, few errors | 90% |
| 9 | Insightful storytelling, meaningful plot, creatively original interpretation | 95% |

BATTER'S BOX CHECKLIST: Practice until you can answer every question in the affirmative! Swing until it's a homerun!

- Is it based on a true American crime?
- Is it a *fictional story* OR *synthesized argument* piece?
- Does it tell a full story (exposition-climax-resolution)?
- Does it utilize actual information from the real crime?
- Have you read it out loud at least five times?
- Have you proofread for errors (diction & syntax)?
- Would you be proud of submitting it?
- Would you say it is creative & original?
- Did you attach an MLA formatted bibliography?
- Did you turn it in on time (preferably early)?