

## Senior English IV AP Summer Reading Assignment Annotation of *1984* and *Brave New World*

Once again, we have paired together the dystopic (opposite of utopia) novels of ***1984* by George Orwell and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**. They are two separate but related visions of our future. You need to read both books and do the following assignment by the first day of class. Be ready for a quiz or test during the first week of school. Please, if you use Sparknotes or another online resource, remember to use them after you have read and only as a review before coming to class. Rely on yourself and your intuitions about the books as you read them, then compare yourself to others (if you feel that is necessary).

This year's assignment is more in keeping with the skills we want to impress on you for college. One skill that you must learn and become proficient at is annotating a text while you read. In college, you will need to mark up textbooks, track thoughts throughout papers or other readings, take notes while listening to lecture and even during discussions. To this end, we are not doing dialectical notes this year with summer reading. Instead, **you will annotate your summer reading books**.

There are many ways to annotate and every student ends up doing something a little different once they learn the skill, but for this assignment, we want conformity for ease of grading and discussions. Therefore, **please follow the guidelines that follow:**

1. You must annotate consistently throughout the entire book. **This means you must have notes on at least every few pages, not just one per chapter**. You may take notes on every page if you wish but what we will look for is that you made notes on the majority of pages in the book thus showing us you were engaged with the text, having a sort of dialogue with yourself and the story.
2. **Use the following system for annotating:**
  - a. **Circle** all vocabulary words you do not know. (Even go look them up. What an idea!)
  - b. Put a **question mark** in the margin next to parts of the text that do not make sense to you for whatever reason. If they make sense to you later, then go back to that part of the text and write out what it means.
  - c. **Underline** statements that pop out at you as profound. They really speak to you. Then briefly write in the margin why they stand out to you.
  - d. If you find yourself reading and making a connection to something earlier in the text or even connecting to something else you have read or seen, **write out** the connection in the margin of the book next to what it connects to. Even refer back to page numbers if you are connecting to earlier in the story.
  - e. **Put a box** around repeating images, ideas, or metaphors as a way of tracking them throughout the book.
  - f. Anything else that seems noteworthy, you can just **write down comments** about it in the margins of the book.

**\*\*\*Obviously this necessitates you buying your own book**, but for the few of you who use a library book, you will have to do these things on notebook paper as you read. You will need to do the following:

1. First **write the page number and a brief summary (or the exact word, words, or quote** if it is short enough) of what is in the text that you are responding to.
2. Then **write the above annotations** and notes on your notebook paper.
3. Again, we are looking for notes on every few pages or even on every page if something strikes you.

**A system of annotating will be required of you with everything you read this year** so this summer is a good time to learn it and become proficient at it. Once school starts, you are welcome to change the symbols and annotations to what suits you best, but for now, use the guides we have set up. Enjoy the books. They are contemporary and highly applicable to our world of today and some very scary, when you really think about it, issues we are facing and will face in our future.