

Advanced Placement English: Literature and Composition
Naperville Central Communication Arts Department
Pre-Course Assignment (Part One)

The answers you get from literature depend upon the questions you pose.

-author Margaret Atwood

As required reading for AP Lit and Composition, closely read and annotate the following texts: *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. To this end, consider the following reading strategies based on Mortimer Adler's *How to Read a Book* to help with deciding what to annotate. Since you will be responsible for responding to each text on several levels, it is imperative that you read both texts with a close and critical eye. Be sure to bring both annotated texts with you on the first day of class. In addition to the NCHS library and local libraries, texts can also be purchased at any local bookstore, or on line.

Assessments:

How to Read Literature like a Professor – please see separate assignment sheet
The Namesake – Impromptu Essay (see below), Objective Reading Test, & Multiple Choice Questions

During the first two weeks of the course, you will take a multiple choice reading test covering *The Namesake*.

After completing a close reading and thoroughly annotating *The Namesake*, respond to the following prompt in a handwritten essay. Please monitor your time, taking no more than 40 minutes (similar to the AP Lit Exam) to complete this response. You will submit this essay on the first day of class. Write in blue or black in, on every other line, and on one side only. Include your ID# - no names, please.

Critic Roland Barthes has said, "Literature is the question minus the answer." Considering Barthes' observation, what central question does the work raise and to what extent does it offer any answers?
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We look forward to meeting you and sharing in the discoveries you made while reading these texts.

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Pre-Course Assignment (Part Two)

Prior to the first day of class, read and annotate *How to Read Literature like a Professor* (2014 edition) by Thomas C. Foster. Then respond to the following prompt with insightful commentary, depth of thinking, and concrete connections. This reading and writing assignment serves two purposes: an opportunity to practice your literary analysis skills and an opportunity for your teacher to become familiar with how you read and interpret texts. In addition to the NCHS library, local libraries and local bookstores, this text may be purchased on-line.

Prompt: Looking Through the Lens of Foster's *How to Read Literature like a Professor*

1. After reading and annotating the whole text, select three chapters you found most engaging, most enlightening, and/or most challenging.
2. Apply Foster's insights into literature to *The Namesake*. Based on the three chapters you selected, analyze each chapter in a one page response by discussing specific connections between Foster's text and Lahiri's text. Include a minimum of two quotes from the novel for each chapter response.

For example, as one part of a three page response, an AP Lit student might discuss the insights from Chapter 4: "Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?" in relation to Moushumi.

Format Expectations:

- Follow MLA format in terms of heading, spacing, margins, and parenthetical documentation.
- Write in third person point of view.
- Write in literary present tense.
- Document quotes correctly.

Length Expectations: One page response per chapter for a total of 3 pages.

Due Date:

Be prepared to submit a hard copy on the first day of class and an electronic copy to Canvas (within the first week of the course).