

# English 12 Honors: Intro Info

## Welcome Potential Honors Students,

Enrolling in “English 12: Honors” means you are ready and willing to read and write at a more rigorous level than what is considered standard in the English 12 class. English 12 Honors is a year-long commitment, so students whom are not interested in completing the second semester need not apply.

A majority of the work for the Honors class will be achieved independently, outside of class, on your own time. As always, I am here as a resource to help you in any way possible, but being a part of honors means you will taking on more responsibility and will be expected to take initiative in finding help if needed.

## Requirements and Expectations:

### To be enrolled in English 12: Honors, you must:

- Have maintained at least a “B” in previous English classes and have strong recommendations from past writing teachers
- Complete a diagnostic essay about Literary Criticisms with a “3” or better by 9/9
- Receive scores of “3” or better on first in-class essay on The Road
- Schedule and participate in a one-on-one meeting with Stoll about author selection (TBD)

### Being enrolled in Honors includes commitment to the following assignments:

- **Honors Essay:** You will be required to write a 10-12 page essay that will be due two weeks before POL’s at the end of the semester. This essay will be a compilation of sorts, made up of three smaller essays.
- **Honors Defense:** As a part of honors, you will be participating in a separate end of year defense. Your POL will be a presentation of your honors essay in front of a panel of peers and teachers. The panel will have read your essay and will be asking questions based on the material you have provided in your essay and in the presentation.
- **Participation in Honors Panels:** As a part of the honors group, you will be sitting on the panel for three of your peers, where you will be expected to read their essays and provided feedback and questions during their POL.
- **Summer Reading Project:** Last year, the English 12 Honors class helped Stoll and the English Dept. decide on how to help the entire Da Vinci Design student body engage with our summer reading book I Am Malala. This year, the English 12 Honors students will go one step further and will help Stoll select the book.
- **Frankenstein Socratic Seminars:** Socratic Seminar discussions will be a crucial part of being in English 12: Honors Semester 2. Socratic Seminars will happen before/after school, and students will be expected to make it to all discussions during Senior Projects in order to get credit for the course.

# First Assignment: Literary Criticisms Diagnostic Essay

Your first assignment is due on Friday 9/9. It will be due on TurnItIn.com by 5pm.

You will be submitting it to a NEW TurnItIn class Called "English 12 Honors". Check the "Classroom Resources" tab on my website for Class ID and Password.

Your task is to research different types of critical approaches to literature. Write a 2-3 page report (typed) in response to what these critical approaches / criticisms are and how they may be applied.

## The general outline for this report will be as follows:

¶ 1: Intro Paragraph - (What is a "critical approach" to literature in general? How did you use a traditional/biographical in your first essay on *The Road*?)

¶ 2: Critical Approach #1

¶ 3: Critical Approach #2

¶ 4: Critical Approach #3

¶ 5: Conclusion and Reflection - (Which of these approaches do you find the most accessible, or would be the easiest to use, and why? Which of these do you think would be the most difficult and why?)

## In responding to paragraphs 2, 3 & 4, answer the following prompts:

- What is a general purpose of this type of approach?
- What are two literary works that you have read (in or out of school) that you could analyze using this approach?
- How would you go about using this approach for each of these two literary works?

Choose three of the following types of criticism / critical approaches to discuss in your essay, and discuss just one type in each body paragraph (ie: ¶2, ¶3 & ¶4)

- Biographical
- Formalist
- Feminist / Gender Studies
- Psychological / Psychoanalytic
- Mythological / Archetypal
- Sociological / Cultural Studies
- See another on that's interesting? Research it! Your Choice! (only once)

Please see me or email me if you have any questions!

## Semester I:

For semester I, you will be writing an essay comparing and contrasting two pieces of work written by the same author. The two works will be from two different forms of literature, and your comparison should focus on how the author uses these different forms to their advantage.

Your essay should provide analysis on both works of literature, as well as a brief biographical or historical background relevant to the author. The biographical background should be used to show any influence that this may have had on the author's choice to write in different forms and literary genres.

**The List:** Following is a list of author and their works that you may choose.

Legend:

N = Novel / Novella PO = Poems SF = Short Fiction PL = Play / Script

<b>Sylvia Plath</b> N: Bell Jar PO: Various Poems (ex: "Daddy"; "Lady Lazarus"; "The Cut")	<b>John Steinbeck</b> N: Grapes of Wrath; Of Mice and Men SF: Various Stories (and novellas)
<b>Ray Bradbury</b> N: Fahrenheit 451 SF: Martian Chronicles (choose one story)	<b>Flannery O'Connor</b> N: Wise Blood SF: Various Stories (ex: "A Good Man is Hard to Find"; "Good Country Folk")
<b>Oscar Wilde</b> N: Dorian Grey PL: The Importance of Being Ernest SF: Various Stories (ex: "The Happy Prince")	<b>Edgar Allen Poe</b> SF: (2) Various Stories (ex: "Cask of Amontillado"; "The Black Cat"; "Mask of the Red Death") PO: (1-2) Various Poems (ex: "The Raven"; "Annabel Lee")
<b>William Shakespeare</b> PL: Various Plays (ex: <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> ; <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> ; <i>Twelfth Night</i> ; etc.) PO: (1-2) Sonnets (ex: <i>Sonnet 18</i> ; <i>116</i> ; <i>130</i> )	<b>Zora Neale Hurston</b> N: Their Eyes Were Watching God SF: Various Stories (ex: "Sweat")
<b>Ernest Hemingway</b> N: Old Man Sea; Garden of Eden SF: Various Stories (ex: "A Clean, Well Lighted Place"; "Hills Like White Elephants")	<b>Gabriel Garcia Marquez</b> N: Love in the Time of Cholera SF: Various Stories (ex: "A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings")
<b>James Joyce:</b> N: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man SF: The Dubliners (choose one story, ex: "The Dead")	<b>Sandra Cisneros</b> N: The House on Mango Street SF: Various Stories (ex: "Barbie Q")
<b>Alice Walker</b> N: The Color Purple, Meridian PO: (1-2) Various Poems (ex: "If I Was President"; "Our Martyr") SF: Various Stories (ex: "Everyday Use")	<b>Richard Wright</b> N: Native Son SF: Various Stories (ex: "The Man Who Was Almost a Man")
<b>Truman Capote</b> N: In Cold Blood; Breakfast at Tiffany's SF: Various Stories (ex: "Miriam")	<b>Helena Maria Viramontes</b> N: Under the Feet of Jesus SF: Various Stories (ex: "The Moths")