Greetings AP Lang students and parents!

I am so glad that you have elected to take AP English Language and Composition. While rigorous, AP Lang is excellent preparation for your academic and professional future, and I am looking forward to our year together. However, I would like to make note of a few important things to consider before committing to this course.

First and foremost, **do not take the class simply for a GPA boost**. If you are "on the fence" about taking this AP course, I encourage you to enroll in American Literature, which is a college preparatory course. Both classes will challenge you and introduce you to new authors and new ideas. Junior year can be overwhelming, especially if you have commitments to sports, student government, drama, choir or other activities that require significant time outside of school. It can definitely be done—and done well—but please be realistic in your commitments.

**Parents please note:** *The Language of Composition* is the text for this class, and it is a required purchase. Students will be learning to effectively annotate—so important for their success in college—and the text will be used throughout the year. We estimate that **the final cost of the book will run from $60 - $90.** In addition, we will be reading several AP College Board approved books, which often can be checked out at a library, but can also be purchased online, either new or used.

**Students: Your AP summer reading assignment is Frederick Douglass' *My Bondage and My Freedom*.** The autobiography ends with a collection of speeches and essays. In addition to the main text, you are required to read the speech Douglass gave in England, the response to that speech, and the letter Douglass wrote his former slave master. There are many versions online, and all are fine, as long as they include the extra speeches and essays.

You will take an exam concerning the text when come back to school in August. To prepare for that exam, you will be making a “dialectical journal” entry for each chapter. Divide the page vertically (hot dog style). On one half of the page, choose an interesting quote from the chapter, including the page number. On the other half of the page, write your reaction/analysis for the quote you chose. Do not summarize the plot! Focus on how Douglass establishes his credibility as a former slave; builds his argument that slavery is an unacceptable evil; and asserts that abolitionism is the only acceptable outcome. Ask questions and explore possible answers. Your responses should be thoughtful and not dashed out the night before school begins. Bring your dialectical journal and your book to school on the first day of class.

We have so much to learn from Douglass’ unflinching account of his early life as a slave, and there is much for us, as believers, to consider and discuss together. I look forward to excellent conversations and shared insights among my AP students during this coming year!

In Christ,

Mrs. Peacock