Fall 2012

**Components of**

**AP Language & Composition**

**I The Regents**

* Four essays: critical lens, listening passage, paired passage, chart & nonfiction.
* A 90-minute exam given towards the end of June; AP students average over a 90. Includes reading comprehension, paragraph writing, and one critical lens essay.
* Emphasized in this class through the teaching of expository writing techniques and in-depth reading skills.
* Not a major part of the curriculum until after the AP test.

**II The AP Language and Composition Exam**

* Three essays: Style Analysis, Argument, Synthesis essay (DBQ style).
* 55-60 questions of the highest level of reading comprehension given – focus is on choices an author makes rather than basic understanding.
* This exam is 3 hours, 15 minutes long and is given in mid-May.
* Students average over a 4 on the exam. (Yes, four!)
* Please get yourself a copy of *CliffsAP: English Language and Composition*. We will use this in class beginning on October 18.

**III The Creative-Writing Component**

* Goals and deadlines for poems, memoirs, and other creative pieces will be set each marking period.
* A portfolio of creative writing will be due around June first.
* Creative writing will be an important factor in your grade each quarter.
* More information in the upcoming weeks.

**IV The Research Paper**

* A six-page, 10-source paper is expected this year.
* The paper is usually given between December and February.
* Students will choose their own topics – as long as they stem from lessons learned in school or current events. Keep your eye out for potential topics.

**V Outside Reading**

* Students are expected to read at least one outside *nonfiction* book per quarter.
* The AP exam is composed entirely of *nonfiction* passages, so prepare yourself by reading high-level, nonfiction work.
* Outside literary choices are determined entirely by the students.