



District 88

# WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

“Expectations for Excellence”



District 88

1250 SOUTH ARDMORE AVENUE – VILLA PARK – ILLINOIS 60181

Phone: (630) 530-3400 – FAX: (630) 530-3401

May 2026

Dear AP Student:

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. The Advanced Placement curriculum reflects college-level analysis, reading, and writing; this is also a seminar course, requiring students to participate verbally. This course offers a challenging program of literary study and rhetorical analysis designed to prepare the student to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition and for college-level reading and writing. The curriculum includes an emphasis on major American writers and some world authors and philosophers of comparable literary merit. The primary focus will be on American fiction and nonfiction.

In our experience, students who read a daily paper and thoughtful periodicals have a much more sophisticated understanding of the world and better critical thinking skills than those who do not. This is an excellent time in your life to be informed about the world around you. As the AP graders from College Board note, “Part of being good writers is being involved, informed citizens, people who are aware of important issues being discussed in their community, nation and world and who are capable of contributing intelligently to conversations about these issues.” The AP test reflects that level of awareness. Increasing your knowledge of current events will help you prepare for this exam early.

By taking this advanced course, you have agreed to engage in summer reading. The English Department recommends that you do so at a pace that allows you to enjoy this memoir. Reading in June or July will not make your participation in class more difficult than reading in August. If you or a friend misplace your summer reading assignment, you can access all this information on the District 88 website. Go to [www.dupage88.net](http://www.dupage88.net), then click on WBHS (top right), then ENGLISH (left menu), then click the file “11AP Summer Letter 2026” at the bottom of the page.

Summer Reading Title:

**Text:** *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

(ISBN#:978-0-399-58819-8)\*

**\*The English Department has ordered the book above for you, and you will be able to pick it up in A113, the English Office. Students who add the course after novel distribution will need to pick up a copy of the text at Willowbrook High School. Please e-mail Dr. Jamie Gourlev, Assistant Principal at [jgourlev@dupage88.net](mailto:jgourlev@dupage88.net) to make arrangements.**

For this text, there is one question to answer, as specified in the attached assignment. This question will ask that you apply argumentative skills, a skill that we will be concentrating on throughout the year. You will be asked to submit this answer on Turnitin.com, so be sure to save your work to be uploaded the first week of school. We also expect to see annotations taken directly in your text; for example, you should underline important passages, define unfamiliar words, note outside connections or questions, and label important literary and persuasive devices. These notes will help you succeed on assignments and assessments when we return to school and begin writing about and discussing the text.

Finally, we have attached **2026/2027 Willowbrook English Department Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy/Contract**. As society becomes more reliant on technology, Willowbrook teachers have seen a notable increase in plagiarism, including students claiming material from online sources and/or claiming the work of past and present peers as their own original ideas. Because of this, we want to be sure each student understands the seriousness of this offense and request that you sign and date the policy and return it to us the first week of classes.

We look forward to meeting you, and learning with you, next year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Terri Woebel  
English Teacher  
[twoebel@dupage88.net](mailto:twoebel@dupage88.net)

Mr. Daniel Fliegel  
English Teacher  
[dfliegel@dupage88.net](mailto:dfliegel@dupage88.net)

## AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

### Reading Response Questions:

Directions: Respond to the following question with two fully developed paragraphs. The response should be typed and edited closely to avoid errors. **You may NOT work on this assignment with another student enrolled in AP Language, and all ideas must be original as stated in the Academic Honesty Policy.** The first week of school, you will be asked to upload this assignment on Turnitin.com, which checks for academic honesty. If you have questions about the assignment, please feel free to email one of us.

When using textual evidence, it is important to **lead into and cite quotations, as we do below.**

*Born a Crime* response:

1. In the brief section before the beginning of the chapter, “Chameleon,” Trevor Noah writes the following: “Part of the effort to divide black people was to make sure we were separated not just physically but by language as well. In the Bantu schools, children were only taught in their home language. Zulu kids learned in Zulu. Tswana kids learned in Tswana. Because of this, we’d fall into the trap the government had set for us and fight among ourselves, believing that we were different. [...] The great thing about language is that you can just as easily use it to do the opposite: convince people that they are the same” (49).

Using examples from your own life and/or current events and **(most importantly) the beginning, middle, and end of Noah’s memoir**, write an argument that qualifies (agree/disagree with specific limitations using words like *somewhat, might, could, may, in some cases, often, etc.*) to what extent is this claim true. Be sure to cite all examples with parentheses and page numbers (whether quoted or summarized) from the text. (As in the example above!)

Total Points Possible: 25 - Full points will be rewarded for responses that are fully developed paragraphs, free from grammatical errors, and developed with ample and properly cited support from the text.

### Reading Annotations

Annotating in a text is a vital component of an Advanced Placement English course. Annotating texts allows you to have a conversation with the author and remain actively engaged in the reading. Notes should be taken throughout the reading, but they do not need to be on every page. Annotating is required in a reading and writing course; therefore, the argument: “I do not feel comfortable writing in books” is an unacceptable excuse for not completing this assignment. You must make notes in the text as well. Only underlining or highlighting is not considered annotating.

While reading, you should take notes on

- possible motifs, symbols, themes, comparisons, character traits, etc.
- key factual information, story elements, or interesting persuasive arguments.
- unfamiliar words and their definitions. It is essential to always read with a dictionary nearby.
- questions you have or any confusing sections you need clarification about.
- significant quotations. You might note these for their content or particularly impressive style.
- connections you make to other texts or society.
- ideas you defend and those you challenge.

## 2026-2027 Willowbrook English Department

### Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and AI

#### Plagiarism

Definition: Plagiarism is the act of claiming another person's writing or ideas as one's own without giving credit to that original author. Black's Law Dictionary's definition is "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's mind." Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the written work: musical compositions, artwork, projects, computer software, websites, peer's work, etc.

Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Copying and pasting from a source without using a citation
- Taking an idea from a source and including it in your paper without a citation
- Forgetting to cite a source or citing it incorrectly
- Taking all or part of another student's work
- Submitting your own work produced for another course
- Using websites that are created to cheat, copy, purchase, and/or take essays

To avoid plagiarism, be sure to conform to the following (adapted from *Lester's Guide of the Research Paper*):

1. Acknowledge all borrowed material, whether it is a direct quotation or paraphrasing of another's idea. Introduce the information with the authority's name and include the source of information in a properly formatted parenthetical citation.
2. Always put quotation marks around direct quotations, along with citing them.
3. Simply rearranging material that is not originally yours into your own words is still plagiarism; be sure to cite the ideas of others clearly.
4. Include documentation for every piece of borrowed material.
5. Include a properly formatted works cited entry in the "Works Cited" page for each source that is used in your assignment; do not include works that you did not cite.

#### Artificial Intelligence

Definition: "Artificial intelligence" or "AI" is intelligence demonstrated by computers, as opposed to human intelligence. "Intelligence" encompasses the ability to learn, reason, generalize, and infer meaning. Examples of AI technology include ChatGPT and other chatbots and large language models.

AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI generated content as their own work. The use of AI to take tests, complete assignments, create multimedia projects, write papers, or complete schoolwork without permission of a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited. The use of AI for these purposes constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

Relying too much on AI can lead to missing crucial nuances and context. Teachers will clarify if, when, and how AI tools can be used on assignments, and students are expected to review outputs generated by AI before incorporating them into their work.

Students may not use AI, including AI image or voice generator technology, to violate school rules or school district policies.

In order to ensure academic integrity, tests, assignments, projects, papers, and other schoolwork may be checked by AI content detectors and/or plagiarism recognition software.

The consequences for academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and improper use of artificial intelligence, may include a zero on the assignment, parent/guardian contact, and a Dean's referral.

**WB English Department Academic Honesty Contract**

*Student: I have read this information sheet. I fully understand my responsibility as a student to produce original work ethically and responsibly.*

---

Printed Name

---

Signature

---

Date

*Parent/Guardian Contract: I have received this policy and discussed it with my student. I understand the consequences for academic dishonesty.*

---

Printed Name

---

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

---

Date