



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 Student:

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is designed to provide you with the most helpful strategies to succeed on the AP exam next year as well as success in your undergraduate work in the following academic years. We will cover a full gamut of materials; therefore, you should be ready to dig your heels into several genres of literature throughout **the entire** school year. You will be expected to work extremely hard, so be prepared in August through the last weeks of school. By taking this course, you agree to engage in summer reading; the English Department recommends that you do so at a pace that allows you to enjoy the text. Reading in June or July will not make your participation in class more difficult than reading in August; however, we do not recommend trying to read the text in the last week of summer before school begins. **Failure to do your summer reading is not an acceptable excuse for dropping the course. In addition to taking the AP Literature Exam in May, a required simulation (practice) exam will be taken by each student in early to mid-April. This will be completed outside of class time. Finally, we are excited and proud to announce that those who receive a passing grade in the course AND take the exam in May will receive transcribed collegiate credit from Elmhurst University. Credit will be the equivalent to Elmhurst’s English 200 course and should be transferable to ANY institution.**

In order for us to successfully begin the course in August, we have established a summer reading for Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. ***The English Department has ordered the novel below for you, and you will be able to pick the novel up in A113, the English Department 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 Gourley, Assistant Principal, at jgourley@dupage88.net to make arrangements.**

- **Novel: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (ISBN# 978-0-486-28211-4) The Dover Thrift Edition. (This is NOT the Thrift Study edition.)**

To fulfill the summer reading requirement, please keep a close-reading response for the work read. This response must be typed (MLA formatted: 12-point, Times New Roman, 1.0” margins, double spaced, etc.—If you need help, reference the Purdue OWL: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html). You should cite the assigned text as you read. **You will need a spiral notebook and a folder as well.** Specific instructions for each piece are attached to this letter. However, please keep in mind that the responses are **due the FRIDAY of our return**. The responses will be collected (both electronically), graded, and returned to you, so you can use them in our discussions and to study for exams. Therefore, the more thorough your notes, the more personally useful they will be.

If you or a friend misplace your summer reading assignment, you can access all this information on the District 88 website. Go to www.district88.net click on WBHS (top right), then ENGLISH (left menu), then click the file “12AP Summer Letter SY 2026-2027” at the bottom of the page.

Finally, we have attached **the 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.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Brett A. Blair
English Teacher
bblair@dupage88.net

Brian Shanahan
English Teacher
bshanahan@dupage88.net

Response Instructions: Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

If you choose to take notes as you read, please start them in your notebook, which we will use during the school year. The more organized you stay, the more accessibility you will have during the course to the key styles and themes of the authors and their works. Of course, please annotate as well!

1. *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*

This text is an AP favorite!! As you will read in Mary Shelley's introduction, she, her husband and a group of friends were forced to stay inside due to a several day storm, so in the evenings, they all told "ghost stories." Shelley began to tell her tale of Victor Frankenstein and his creation, and she was inspired to write *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*. In her vivid frame story, she creates an image of two beings immersed in sadness and loneliness. Shelley, whose life was immured in tragedy both prior to and following the writing of this novel, creates several moments where her protagonist, Victor, is imbued with "a fervent longing to penetrate the secrets of nature" and who wants to probe "the deepest mysteries of creation." As Victor is inspired by both the death of his mother and witnessing the magnificent power of a lightning storm, he delves into the creation of the Creature.

This haunting tale is one of the quintessential texts of the British Romantic period, underscoring man's constant need to conquer nature. This epistolary tale is told from three points of view, starting with Robert Walton, a mariner who has a need to explore and stumbles upon Victor in the Arctic. Then, as Victor begins and continues this tale, the third narrator, the Creature, tells his excruciating yarn of inspiration and compassion to utter demise and evil.

Below are the two assignments for *Frankenstein*.

1. The Romantics loved to make connections between the individual and the natural world. Nature was supreme, and man should work with nature not against it. **How does nature work for and/or against Victor and the Creature in this novel? What is she trying to say, and which of the two characters seem to be the most connected to nature and why? Explain using specific references from the novel.** This response should be two (2) paragraphs (minimum) in length and include quotations and citations from the novel, i.e., (Shelley 62).

2. **Show how the characters exemplify the theme of loneliness in the novel through the repetition of images found with Victor, the creature, and even Robert. Explain using specific references from the novel.** This response should be two (2) paragraphs (minimum) in length and include quotations and citations from the novel, i.e., (Shelley 62).

*****Do not forget to annotate instances throughout the text, not just the first half of the text. Proper MLA format is required for both responses!!**

GOOD LUCK!!

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!

Sample MLA Format for Responses:

Stefan Smith

Smith 1

Mr. Blair

AP English Literature & Composition

18 August 2024

Your Title

Now, begin your two or three-paragraph response. No first person, unless the first person is inside the quotation. Citations should be used, even with paraphrase to give credit to the author (Shelley 67). Be sure you have 1.0" margins, and that the entire response is formatted like this, and double-spaced. If you have questions, please e-mail your AP teacher (Shelley 77).

Rubric for Responses:

You will usually receive single questions regarding sections of a piece of literature or an entire work. You will have specified paragraph lengths throughout the year. Your responses should be in MLA format ALWAYS. You must also reference the text for support of your claim. Each response will be worth twenty-five (25) points.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Appropriate length (paragraph requirement), MLA format with accurate citations, etc. | /10 |
| 2. Analysis of the topic with significant examples: | /10 |
| 3. Grammar/spelling/diction/syntax: | /5 |
| Total: | /25 |

***The summer reading will be worth a total of 50 points: 25 points for each response.**

****All responses will be graded the same way via this rubric throughout the entire year.**

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