Welcome! AP English Language & Composition is one of two AP English classes offered by the College Board. Literature & Composition, the course we've had here for several years, focuses on the analysis of literature and the exploration of literary theory and emulates a college-level introduction to literature. This course is an advanced composition class akin to a college-level introduction to composition. Through your reading of a variety of texts, you will become better readers and better writers. The course offers an in depth analysis of how successful writers accomplish their goals. The summer reading assignment will introduce you to the type of text we will engage throughout the year. There are three parts to this assignment; make sure you complete them all.

Step 1: Purchase the following book in either print or digital format:
- *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, by Neil Postman
  - ISBN: 978-0143036531
  - Purchase ONLY this edition, as we will use the text in class discussion.

Step 2: Read and Respond to the book. Use the suggestions below to help your understanding of the book.
- Read it thoughtfully and carefully with an eye to increasing your awareness of the many ways the media--and communication, in general--affect our lives today. When school begins, you must be able to identify the major claims (opinions) of the book, provide at least three specific, concrete details that the writer uses to defend each claim, explain the author's purpose, and explain how he has used evidence, favorable or unfavorable diction, organization, illustrations, tone, and/or any other technique to defend his claims and accomplish his purpose.
- Here is what you should pay close attention to while you read:
  - The author's **purpose**: Why is he writing this book? What message does he hope to get across to readers? What prompted him to write this book? What major claims does the author make?
  - **Audience**: Who is the intended audience for this book? To whom is/are the arguments proposed? How does the book speak to different audiences?
  - **Strategies**: How does the author go about achieving his purpose? How does he write? What examples does he use? Does he try to make you, the reader, feel a certain way? Does he try to convince you in a particular way? Does he write in a particular way that helps him achieve his purpose?
  - Your **Response**: Where do you agree or disagree w/ his claims? Does he effectively achieve his purpose?

More info on the next page...
Step 3: Write about the book. (This assignment counts a major grade and will be graded according to the English Department’s summer reading essay rubric.)

Analysis Essay: Closely examine the argument made by the author, and locate the specific ways the author supports his argument(s). Then, write an essay with a strong thesis regarding the strategies the author uses to achieve his purpose. In other words, the thesis should answer the following question: what is the author’s purpose in this book and how does he go about achieving that purpose? The best essays will focus on specific details from the text—such as the author's tone, use of evidence, organization, analysis of counter-arguments, etc.—and will not simply rely on a “surface” evaluation of the text. In other words, please avoid generalizations.

Essay Details:
- **Due first day of class** .... bring a paper copy!
  - 10 points will be deducted for each day the paper is late
- 750 words +/- 20
  - Include introductory and concluding paragraphs
  - Organize paragraphs w/ topic sentences
- Typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 point, Times New Roman font...all the usual MLA stuff
- Quotations should use proper MLA format and should be properly bended w/ your commentary
- Aim for commentary (educated interpretation) rather than plot summary
- Include a Works Cited page according to MLA format
  - To save paper, just skip a few lines at the end of your essay and include your works cited entry
- Consult no source except the summer reading book
  - You’ll submit the essay to Turnitin.com during the first week of clas

Enjoy the reading, and good luck! Please email Fr. Johnson (jjohnson@strakejesuit.org) or Mr.Kubiak (kkubiak@strakejesuit.org) if you have any questions.