

English 12 Introductions

After 12 years [pushing the boulder up the hill](#), you are now just 280 days from graduation. That's 40 weeks, or about nine months – both a long time and not that long at all.

About Me: http://sisypheanhigh.com/malachite/?page_id=3343 | This will explain who I am and what I've done to build a course for your specific needs.

Opening-Day Questionnaire: <http://sisypheanhigh.com/malachite/?p=4335> | These are my answers to some of the questions you've been asked below.

Take your time to fill out this form. Remember that writing gets us closer to truth and understanding than any other form of communication. Find the words.

The respondent's email (**null**) was recorded on submission of this form.

* Required

1. Email *

2. Period *

Mark only one oval.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

3. First Name *

4. Last Name *

5. School Support

Write the name of any adults who support you here in the school, if you're comfortable doing so. These are mentors, social workers, trusted teachers, administrators, and so on.

6. ELL/ENL

It helps to know if English is your second language, especially as we plan the first semester. You can check the box below to indicate this.

Check all that apply.

Yes

7. 2+ ELA Courses

It helps to know if you are taking two core English courses. This refers only to English 9, English 10, or English 11, not to electives. If you are doubled up, select "yes" below.

Check all that apply.

Yes

8. College-Level Courses

It also helps to know if you are taking college-level courses, since that greatly impacts your workload. Indicate how many, if any, of your classes are SUPA, DCC, AP, etc.

Mark only one oval.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6+

The Most Important Thing One Learns

We may take as our guide here John Dewey's observation that the content of a lesson is the least important thing about learning. As he wrote in *Experience and Education*: "Perhaps the greatest of all pedagogical fallacies is the notion that a person learns only what he is studying at the time. Collateral learning in the way of formation of enduring attitudes... may be and often is more important than the spelling lesson or lesson in geography or history... For these attitudes are fundamentally what count in the future." **In other words, the most important thing one learns is always something about *how one learns*.** As Dewey wrote in another place, we learn what we do.

~Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*

Longer Answers

Take your time to discuss these questions, to think about your responses, and to write as much as you're comfortable writing in response to each one. This is your introduction to the course's focus on crystallizing our discussions, thinking, and learning in written form.

9. What does your writing life look like?

Writing, in this case, encompasses everything you write, not just your academic writing.

10. What else do you like to create?

The Humanities includes art, music, dance, and much more. These are creative arts, and they help define you as a person.

11. What does your reading life look like?

Reading, in this case, encompasses everything you read in any medium, from canonical fiction to forums online.

12. What other media do you enjoy?

This includes TV, movies, and video games; it also includes fine art, music, dance, and much more. Think of the media that convey emotions, narratives, experiences, etc, to you. What you enjoy?

13. What is the story, so far, of your educational experience?

Think of your time in public (or private) education as a story, and share out some of the key story elements.

14. Where do you plan, hope, or expect to be next year?

You may have specific, set goals, and you may have no idea. In either case, expand on the basic answers to this question (e.g., that you plan to go to college).

15. What else, if anything, would you like to write here?

As you learn more about the expansive, individualized nature of this space, you may want to share more of yourself. Use this space to start that process, if you like.

Introductory Reading

One of the best habits you can build is the ability to work interstitially – to bookmark an assignment in order to return to it when you have a few minutes, for instance, or to set aside the last part of a text until you have 30 minutes to complete it.

You should read the following:

Course Syllabus for 2021–2022: <https://tinyurl.com/210-syllabus-21-22>

Universal Syllabus: http://sisypheanhigh.com/malachite/?page_id=4651

Course Policies: <https://tinyurl.com/21-22-course-policies>

Letter Home: <https://tinyurl.com/instructional-backbone>

Course FAQ: <http://tinyurl.com/2020-course-faq>

English 12 Testimonials: <https://tinyurl.com/eng-12-testimonials>

Remember that the more of this you read, the more you'll get to know me and the course. You do not need to read all of that this week. You will learn by doing. If you want to prioritize the writing that will speed along that connection, prioritize the following:

About Me: http://sisypheanhigh.com/malachite/?page_id=3343

Opening-Day Questionnaire: <http://sisypheanhigh.com/malachite/?p=4335>

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