

# Welcome to English 2 Honors!

I am thrilled that you have chosen to take this course because unlike English 2 CP, signing up for this course is a choice. Before you begin in-class instruction with me, you will need to have read two pieces and completed certain tasks with each.

1. Read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* in its entirety.
2. As you read, **take notes** about names of characters, places, and events. Since it is somewhat of a lengthy text, the identities of the characters can become especially muddled. **You will submit these notes as part of your grade.**
3. As you will notice, the novel has two parts. *You will create a mind map for each part.* If you are inspired to go further, you are welcome to create more. The subjects of the maps could be main characters, key events, ideas/themes, etc.
  - a. For assistance on creating mind maps, google "mind map examples." You'll find a plethora of options for creating these.
  - b. For other examples, see the mind maps in my classroom and on the wall outside of it.
4. Read Paul Laurence Dunbar's "We Wear the Mask." No, this is not referencing PPE or COVID-19-gear, as this poem was first published in 1895. Along with the poem, you have an article I borrowed from Shmoop. This will give you some context.
5. You have two options for your assignment on the poem:
  - a. Create another mind map about the poem, tying it to *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
  - b. Provide a **detailed** annotation of the poem. Include anything and everything you notice. **DO NOT** google the poem or look for meanings that others have found. Use the included article for context, and **USE YOUR OWN BRAIN.**

You will be expected to participate in class activities surrounding both pieces, particularly the novel. You will have several assignments, including assessments and discussions, throughout the first week of class in which you will be expected to know and be able to use the text accurately and aptly. Because this is one of the best books ever written, I cannot wait to learn from it with you. Consequently, not actually reading the book would be robbing yourself of an excellent opportunity, not to mention committing a dishonorable act as an honors student.

I look forward to having you in my class. Enjoy your summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anna Hurley