



Greetings AP English Literature Participants!

I look forward to working with you this summer for a week at Woodward Academy. I have been coming to Atlanta, Georgia, now for four summers as an AP English consultant. I think you will enjoy your week here on this beautiful campus, and I promise to do all I can to make your week fun and beneficial.

I taught English for 30 years in North Carolina and for 16 years AP English at the Career Center. I usually taught three or four AP classes of about thirty students each and served as the department chair. I think I've taught every grade and English class from seventh grade to sophomore-college English in those 30 years, and I still find the AP curriculum the most challenging and the most rewarding. I have been a reader of the AP English exams for twelve years now and a consultant for thirteen. I am a National Board Certified Teacher in Adolescent/Young Adult English/Language Arts.

I will try to adhere to the schedule that I have outlined, but I like to be flexible enough to adapt to meet your needs. I still remember my first AP English class, and had it not been for the expertise, kindness, and generosity of Mrs. Becky Brown around the corner from me, I would never have survived. So I like to think that when I conduct these summer institutes I am paying her back in an indirect way. My goal is to give you as much help as you need and as many materials as I possibly can. I realize that you will adapt these methods and materials to your own situation when you return home, but I hope to give you ample "stuff" to start and the confidence to know that you can do it.

Our days will be full and long, and some of you will only have enough energy left to enjoy some of the excellent restaurants in Atlanta in the evening, but I would like to ask you to do one activity for yourself. I ask that you prepare a course outline for your AP class this coming year. I will give you many samples to model and will provide time for individual consultation during the week. I learned so much that summer at Wake Forest University eighteen years ago when I did my summer institute, but the product I valued most was my course syllabus for first semester. I have adapted it many times since then, but knowing where I was going and how much time I would devote to certain works and activities made all the difference for me that first year.

I will request textbooks from the major publishers—sometimes they come through, sometimes they don't—but I will try to obtain a sampling of textbooks for you to look at and plan from during the week. If you already know what your textbook will be, please bring a copy with you so you can plan specific works. You might also want to consider specific titles of novels and plays you know already that you will teach or that your department has. If you think a copy of these longer works would be helpful, then bring them along also.

I will give you a number of handouts in a three-ring notebook with tabs to help organize the materials. I will also give you a USB drive with many more pages for you to use when you get back home. If you have a laptop computer, you might want to bring it along so that you can explore the CD-ROM in the evenings in your hotel/home, but please don't feel this is a requirement. We may spend some time in the computer lab at Woodward also.

The only other activity I will ask you to do will be to score some essays on certain evenings using the AP rubrics for that essay. I want you to return to your classrooms in the fall with the confidence to score those essays to prepare your students for the exam next May.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at Dlawr3419@aol.com or call me at 336-765-7763. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

Danny R. Lawrence