



DWIGHT SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

11th Grade Summer 2017 Assignment *IB English A Language & Literature SL I*

Welcome to IB English Language & Literature SL. To begin our work with Part 1 of the course, Language and Culture, we are going to start an overarching exploration of the concept of “Language and Power.” Your first task is to begin inquiring into the history and evolution of the English language, from the background of seemingly senseless spelling patterns and irregular verbs to its takeover as the world’s “lingua franca” as well as the *de facto* language of the Internet. This work will lead into your first formal IB assessment: a Further Oral Presentation.

For this summer assignment, you will take the “English in the World Today” online course, available for free through the OpenLearn portal of the Open University. The course can be found here:

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/english-language/english-the-world-today/content-section-0>

Using the “Download this Course” function on the left side of the webpage, you can download the entire course as a single Word document, PDF file, Kindle file, or other format in order to make your reading and work more convenient. The entire course, plus the activities that you will complete for Task #1, should take ten (10) to twelve (12) hours.

You can take the entire course without creating an Open University account; however, we recommend that, if possible, you *do* create an account so that you can receive the Certificate of Participation upon completion of the course.

TASK #1: As you move through the online course, you will encounter seven “Activities.” Complete all of them on a separate, typed document with the course section and activity number clearly labeled. Write in full sentences. Note that, for activities that simply require you to “explore,” such as Activity #4 in the “Timeline of the History of English” section, please write a reflection of six (6) to ten (10) sentences describing the insights that you gained, the questions that were raised, or the connections that you made as a result of this activity.

TASK #2: Write a letter introducing yourself to the teacher, who is new to Dwight. You must use full sentences, but you may maintain a conversational tone. Describe what you wish the teacher to know about you as a person or as a student, offering whatever anecdotes or concerns that you are comfortable sharing. These letters will, of course, be kept confidential. Be sure to include a description of your past experiences in English class, the areas or skills in which you are strong, and the areas or skills that you wish to improve. You should also feel free to include any questions that you would like to pose to the new teacher.

Bring your completed online course activities and introductory letter on the first day of class, printed as follows.

- Type Size: Twelve (12) Point
- Type Font: Times New Roman
- Spacing: Double
- Integrity: At the top of the first page of the activities, type the succinct version of the Dwight School Honor Code: *I did not cheat on this assignment.* (The assignment will be submitted to the anti-plagiarism site *Turnitin.com*. Instructions on how to do so will be provided on the first day of class.)

If you have any questions about the assignment, email Mr. Wiesenfeld, the Chair of the English Department, at mwiesenfeld@dwight.edu. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September!