Objective: The senior AP research paper is based on a novel or play chosen by the student from a list of works which are in the curriculum and/or on the AP suggested reading list. The student will create a thesis based on one of the important themes discussed in the work. Students will receive instruction in writing a thesis, using MLA format for research papers, and other instructions needed to insure a successful paper. The novel or play will serve as the paper’s primary source and the research will function as secondary sources.

The minimum requirements for the critical analysis research paper are as follows:
1. The novel or play selected and read MUST be used as the basis for proving the thesis.
2. A minimum of 3 and no more than 5 quality literary criticisms (secondary sources) must be used in the paper. The sources will be found in library texts or in the library literary databases. (We will visit the library for 4 days as a class.)
   -- ONE (and only one) correctly documented long quote from a secondary source must be included in the paper.
   ***To receive full credit, the paper must adequately and effectively use both the research and the primary source (the novel or play).
   -- Each secondary source must be used at least once and be parenthetically documented.
   -- The primary source will be used many times, but at least twice per body paragraph.
   Failure to incorporate either source adequately will result in a failing grade. The primary source and all secondary sources cited in the paper must appear on the Works Cited page.
3. NO Internet sources are permitted; only approved data base sources may be used.
4. NO general encyclopedias, Cliff notes, Monarch notes or sources of this kind are permitted. No book reviews and no overviews. CHECK YOUR SOURCES.
5. Do not use only one volume or source for your required secondary sources. If you use books that contain multiple articles, the first article you choose may be considered one of the 3 required sources; any subsequent articles within the volume may be used AFTER you have found additional sources not included in that volume. Sources must be published AFTER 1975. If you find an older source and strongly feel that it will contribute to the strength of your paper’s argument, you must submit it to me for approval. All sources must be printed and submitted. See the syllabus for the due date.
6. The typed, double spaced paper will be between 5-6 pages in length. (12 point font, Times New Roman.) The paper will include a Works Cited. (not included in length requirements). The paper will show a balanced use of textual evidence and analysis. Essays that are not AT LEAST 5 full pages in length will fail.
   MLA FORMAT MUST BE FOLLOWED. (Students will continue to receive instruction. Please see the MLA handbook, seventh edition, or the AHS library website for instructions. In addition, check the research tab on the website.)
7. Students must submit the paper, a receipt showing submittal of the paper to Turnitin.com, and all requirements in a large manila envelope. The envelope will clearly show the student’s name and class period.

The following items must accompany the final paper: (-5 on the final grade per missing item)
1. At least one typed, peer-edited rough draft that shows handwritten evidence of revision.
2. At least one typed, self-edited rough draft which shows handwritten evidence of revision.
3. Copies of ALL secondary sources, highlighted to show documented information.
4. Approved thesis (Signed and dated)
5. Original works cited page. (signed and dated)
6. Turnitin.com receipt. The paper must be submitted by 7:15 am, Tuesday, April 12th.
8. Students MUST submit papers through the website Turnitin.com by 7:15 am on the due date. Turnitin.com is a website that helps ensure originality and proper citation. All students will submit their papers electronically through this site and attach proof of submission to their papers in order to receive credit.

9. The due date for the research paper is Tuesday, April 12th, 2015. Essays submitted no later than 3 pm (hard copy AND turnitin.com) on Friday, April 8th will receive +5 on the final grade!!!!

A computer or printer problem will NOT extend the due date. Please make sure that you have these issues worked out in advance.

The paper and all required materials will be submitted at the beginning of the period on the due date.

Policy: If a student is on campus for any part of the day, including extracurricular activities, the paper is due. Failure to submit a paper on time will result in a late grade. The AHS Late Work policy will be followed. A late grade will be assessed based on the time the student submits the completed paper to turnitin.com (7:15 am).

If a student is absent on Tuesday, April 12th, for the entire day, including all extracurricular activities, the paper and all required materials are due the day the student returns to school, whether the student has English that day or not. These students must still submit to turnitin.com in order to avoid late penalties. Students who were absent but submit on time (turnitin.com), and fail to turn in a hard copy within 2 school days will evoke the late penalty. -20 1 day, -40 2 days, -60 3 days, -80 4 days.

Students are strongly encouraged to work with the teacher to establish a schedule/calendar to support the research process. (a schedule has been provided via your syllabus)

The research paper grade will be reflected in the final nine weeks’ grade. It is one summative grade, equally weighted with all other summative grades.

Plagiarism:
A paper will receive a grade of zero if it is plagiarized in any way. Plagiarism is defined in the MLA Handbook as: “Forms of plagiarism include the failure to give appropriate acknowledgment when repeating or paraphrasing another’s wording, when taking a particularly apt phrase, and when paraphrasing another’s argument, or presenting another’s line of thinking” (71).

In the event of a plagiarized paper, your parents, principal, and counselor will be notified, and the paper will receive a zero.