

PREFACE

pref·ace (noun)

1. A preliminary statement or essay introducing a book that explains its scope, intention, or background and is usually written by the author.
2. An introductory section, as of a speech.

For this, your first assignment, I would like you to write a preface to English 12. All learning is, essentially, self-directed; therefore, it is really up to you what, if anything, you will learn this semester. Since you will decide to what extent you will learn, it seems appropriate that you write the preface. I would like you to read the course outline very slowly and carefully, and then reflect on everything we talked about on Day 1 of the course, paying special attention to the “Day 1” handout we looked at. Then write two paragraphs in which you discuss the following:

1. Any thoughts, ideas, or questions you have about any of the content in the course outline. The more insightful, original, and reflective your comments are, the better.
2. What it is you hope to get out of English 12. Please, please, pretty please, don't write “To get a good mark” (it's hard to put into words how depressing it is to read that, and for the sake of argument we can just assume that you'd like a good mark so you don't need to waste time writing it). If you honestly aren't sure what you hope to get from the course (and that's a perfectly reasonable problem to have), then spend some time exploring questions that you have about life, ideas that interest you, or issues that you want to have addressed. And if you can't think of a single question about life, a single idea that interests you, or a single issue that you would like to have addressed, then now is probably a good time to start thinking deeply about the world and your place in it. After all, you're almost finished high school. If you haven't started to think by now, when will you?

I WILL be marking this assignment, but I will NOT be concerned with mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation). Those things matter a great deal, of course, but before they can matter you have to have some pretty good ideas down on paper, so let's focus on that end of things first. I will be marking this assignment for your depth of engagement and clarity of thought. But not mechanics. So write freely and boldly, and don't worry about mistakes.

