This summer, AP Language and Composition will read *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, and a choice of two related essays from *The Best American Essays of the Century* edited by Joyce Carol Oates. These works, all published in the twentieth century, share similar themes about happiness, truth, economic values, our roles in society, and the power of technology. These readings are recommended reading by The College Board, which is the organization that creates and administers the PSAT, SAT, and AP exams.

We met earlier as a group to discuss the AP pre-course reading assignment. Reading for AP Language and Composition provides you an opportunity for analyzing writing and critically thinking about the messages the authors of these works wish to convey to you. In turn, you will develop the kinds of language and composition skills you will need to master this course and ultimately the AP Language and Composition exam.

The following assignment includes various ways for you to respond to the reading selections. Read through this packet first and then choose how you want to organize your reading. How you will read these selections is based on your purpose for reading. For example, the theme you choose to focus on, or the character you choose to follow as he or she develops along with the plot, or the types of literary techniques you wish to discuss will all guide your reading.

*Brave New World* is challenging reading. It is a work of fiction which raises some interesting concerns about threats to humanity, some of which are now part of our contemporary society. I strongly encourage you to begin your pre-course reading early in the summer. Do not wait until school starts to begin the assignment as you will already be behind in this AP course on the first day of class if you have not completed your pre-course assignment.

Email me during the summer if you have questions about the assignment or would like to comment on the novel and essays. If you would like, we can choose to discuss the reading assignment as a group through Bay District Schools Google Docs. You may contact me during the summer by using this address: carteld@bay.k12.fl.us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs. Carter
Major themes in Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Theme 1

Incompatibility of Happiness and Truth

The novel Brave New World depicts characters who do everything they can to avoid facing the truth about their own situations. The almost universal use of the drug soma is probably the most pervasive example of such willful self-delusion. Soma hides the realities of the present and replaces them with happy hallucinations, and is thus a tool for promoting social stability.

Question: It seems that most World State members are happy, though people like John, Bernard, and Helmholtz might criticize the quality of their lives. What, then, is wrong with World State society? Include in your discussion the relationship between truth and happiness, and the use of soma. Also, include any connections between the World State and our contemporary society in which the use of medication is socially acceptable to promote social stability.

Theme 2

Consumerism in Society

The World State is an extreme example—but logically developed—version of our current society’s economic values, in which our individual happiness is defined as the ability to satisfy our needs, and success as a society is based on economic growth and prosperity.

Question:

How are the castes distinguished from each other? What is their purpose? Do you think they resemble any aspect of our contemporary society or are they simply a hypothetical consequence of a society like the World State?

Theme 3

The use of Technology to Control Society

Brave New World warns against the dangers of giving the state control over new and powerful technologies.
Question: Discuss the relationship between science, religion, and political power in the World State. Do these relationships resemble any aspect of contemporary society and government?

Extended Response

Brave New World

The following page provides a list of themes found in Brave New World. Be prepared to discuss all three themes when we meet for class in August. However, for the purpose of this assignment, choose ONE theme on which to write an extended response to the theme’s question. The response must be your own work and not summarized or paraphrased from an online or reference source. Extended responses will be well written, with minimal errors in language, mechanics, and usage. Write using blue or black ink (write legibly) or typed (double-spaced). Write a minimum of 300 words. A longer response is always accepted. Be certain to include at least five sources of cited information (parenthetical citation) from the novel to support your response. As you read Brave New World, highlight and annotate your personal connections to these themes in the margins. Marking the text will also help you locate your sources for citations. Also, be certain to put a header across the top of your paper which includes your name, date, and theme. (LACC.1112.RL.1.1.)

History connection: Read the article on “Henry Ford and the Assembly Line.” Write a one page essay in which you note the impact of Henry Ford’s creation of the assembly line on future advancements in industry. Include in your essay Aldous Huxley’s reference to Henry Ford in Brave New World.

Before you begin any of the reading, consider the following essential questions. Write a minimum of five to seven complete sentences to thoroughly address each question. Explain your view on each. Responses will be well written, with minimal errors in language, mechanics, and usage. Write using blue or black ink (write legibly) or typed (double-spaced). Be sure to include a header for this page which includes your name, date, and topic. (LACC.1112.W.1.3.)

1. What is truth?
2. Do standards of truth change over time?
3. When is there truth in fiction?
Pre-course Reading Assignments

AP Language and Composition Vocabulary: Using index cards, create flash cards for the “key terminology” terms. Write the term on one side of the card, and the definition on the other side of the card. Also, be certain to include the terms: parallelism, repetition, apophasis, amplification, and pro catalepsis. You will need to look at a reliable college level source for the meaning of these terms. (LACC.1112.L.3.4.)

Required Reading: Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Read the novel (beginning with the Foreword) and complete your choice of extended response based on a major theme of the novel. Complete any two of the three AP Data Sheets. (These are only models for formatting your notes. Do not attempt to write information in the small spaces). You can use these as suggestions for organizing your own information. (LACC.1112.RL.1.2.)

Student Selected Reading: Choose any two of the following selections from the list below. Compare and contrast major theme(s) of the essays with theme(s) found in Brave New World. Write two responses, one for Brave New World and first selected essay, and then a second response comparing and contrasting Brave New World and second selected essay. Do not write plot summaries, discuss “the big picture” or moral message of each selection. How are they connected? Is it still relevant in today’s contemporary society? Try to include examples of key terminology terms from the AP English Language and Composition study sheet. Examples of figuration language may work well here when discussing theme. The responses must be your own work and not summarized or paraphrased from an online or reference source. These responses will be well written, with minimal errors in language, mechanics, and usage. Write using blue or black ink (write legibly) or typed (double-spaced). Write a minimum of 300 words. A longer response is always accepted. Be certain to include at least five total sources for each response of cited information (parenthetical citation) from the novel and essay to support your response. As you read your choice of essays, highlight and annotate your personal connections to help you locate your sources for citations. Also, be certain to put a header across the top of your papers which includes your name, date, and theme(s). (LACC.1112.RL.1.2.)

Choose any two from The Best American Essays of the Century edited by Joyce Carol Oates

“How It Feels To Be Colored Me” by Zora Neal Hurston
“A Law of Acceleration” by Henry Adams
“The Moral Equivalent of War” by William James
“Knoxville: Summer of 1915” by James Agee
If you wish, you may select some other essay from this source. Email me for approval.

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Provide information about the period (literary, historical, philosophical, etc.)

Identify the genre & specify how this work fits its characteristics

Provide plot points (use bullets or graphic organizer).

Draw an image or write your impressions.
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Henry Ford and the Assembly Line

The First Automobile Assembly Line, Introduced on December 1, 1913
By Jennifer L. Goss, Contributing Writer

A Ford assembly line with a worker attaching a gas tank. (circa 1923)
(Photo by Fotosearch/Getty Images)

Cars changed the way people lived, worked, and enjoyed leisure time; however, what most people don’t realize is that the process of manufacturing automobiles had an equally significant impact on industry. The creation of the assembly line by Henry Ford1 at his Highland Park plant, introduced on December 1, 1913, revolutionized the automobile industry and the concept of manufacturing worldwide.

The Ford Motor Company

Henry Ford was not a newcomer to the business of automobile manufacturing. He built his first car, which he christened the “Quadricyle,” in 1896. In 1903, he officially opened the Ford Motor Company and five years later released the first Model T2. Although the Model T was the ninth automobile model Ford created, it would be the first model which would achieve wide popularity. Even today, the Model T remains an icon for the still-existing Ford Motor Company.

Making the Model T Cheaply

Henry Ford had a goal of making automobiles for the multitudes. The Model T was his answer to that dream; he wanted them to be both sturdy and cheap. In an effort to make Model T’s cheaply, Ford cut out extravagances and options. Buyers couldn’t even choose a paint color; they were all black.
The cost of the first Model T was set at $850, which would be approximately $21,000 in today’s currency. That was cheap, but still not cheap enough for the masses. Ford needed to find a way to cut down the price even further.

Highland Park Plant

In 1910, with the aim of increasing manufacturing capacity for the Model T, Ford built a new plant in Highland Park, Michigan. He created a building that would be easily expanded as new methods of production were incorporated. Ford consulted with Frederick Taylor, creator of scientific management, to examine the most efficient modes of production. Ford had previously observed the assembly line concept in slaughterhouses in the Midwest and was also inspired by the conveyor belt system that was common in many grain warehouses in that region; he wished to incorporate these ideas with the information Taylor suggested to implement a new system in his own factory.

One of the first innovations in production that Ford implemented was the installation of gravity slides that facilitated the movement of parts from one work area to the next. Within the next three years, additional innovative techniques were incorporated and, on December 1, 1913, the first large-scale assembly line was officially in working order.

Assembly Line Function

The moving assembly line appeared to the onlooker to be an endless contraption of chains and links that allowed Model T parts to swim through the sea of the assembly process. In total, the manufacturing of the car could be broken down into 84 steps. The key to the process, however, was having interchangeable parts.

Unlike other cars of the time, the Model T featured interchangeable parts, which meant that every Model T produced on that line used the exact same valves, gas tanks, tires, etc. so that they could be assembled in a speedy and organized fashion. Parts were created in mass quantities and then brought directly to the workers who were trained to work at that specific assembly station. The chassis of the car was pulled down the 150-foot line by a chain conveyor and then 140 workers applied their assigned parts to the chassis. Other workers brought additional parts to the assemblers to keep them stocked; this reduced the amount of time workers spent away from their stations to retrieve parts. The assembly line significantly decreased the assembly time per vehicle and increased the profit margin.

Impact of the Assembly Line on Production
The immediate impact of the assembly line was revolutionary. The use of interchangeable parts allowed for continuous work flow and more time on task by laborers. Worker specialization resulted in less waste and a higher quality of the end product. Sheer production of the Model T dramatically increased. The production time for a single car dropped from over twelve hours to just 93 minutes due to the introduction of the assembly line. Ford’s 1914 production rate of 308,162 eclipsed the number of cars produced by all other automobile manufacturers combined. These concepts allowed Ford to increase his profit margin and lower the cost of the vehicle to consumers. The cost of the Model T would eventually drop to $260 in 1924, the equivalent of approximately $3500 today.

**Impact of the Assembly Line on Workers**

The assembly line also drastically altered the lives of those in Ford’s employ. The work day was cut from nine hours to eight hours so that the concept of the three shift workday could be implemented with greater ease. Although hours were cut, workers did not suffer from lower wages; instead, Ford nearly doubled the existing industry standard wage and began paying his workers $5 a day. Ford’s gamble paid off – his workers soon used some of their pay increases to purchase their own Model Ts. By the end of the decade, the Model T had truly become the automobile for the masses that Ford had envisioned.

**The Assembly Line Today**

The assembly line is the primary mode of manufacturing in industry today. Automobiles, food, toys, furniture, and many more items pass down assembly lines worldwide before landing in our homes and on our tables. Although the average consumer does not think of this fact often, this one-hundred-year-old innovation by a car manufacturer in Michigan changed the way we live and work forever.