

GREAT MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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To: Prospective Language and Composition Students
From: English Department
RE: Summer Assignment
Date: June 1, 2009

One of the prerequisites for AP English Language and Composition is summer reading and writing. To satisfy this requirement for the 2009-2010 school year, students who are taking AP Language and Composition must complete the following major tasks this summer:

1. Read *Writing Down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg.

Purchase your own copy, if possible, so that you can mark the text as you read. The book is locally available at Bay Books. It may also be purchased online.

2. Keep a journal in response to *Writing Down the Bones* as you read.

Specific directions are attached. Your journal, which is worth 200 points, is due on the first day of school.

3. Read one of these autobiographies: Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginnings*, Stephen King's *On Writing*, or Annie Dillard's *The Writing Life*. Again, it's best to purchase your own copy.

4. In 300-500 words, write your own writing autobiography.

Include why you write and what you write; your inspiration(s) for writing; how you go about writing (that is, your rituals, processes); and your strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Regale the reader with your greatest successes or failures as a writer. Describe your favorite writing tasks. *Whatever* you finally include in your essay, keep this in mind: it should be about yourself *as a writer*, it should be written in first person, and it should be a delight to read. It is, after all, a personal narrative (a story) of your writing life.

Like your journal, the writing autobiography is due on the first day of school. Please submit a double-spaced, type-written copy of it in 12 pt. Times New Roman on that day.

Have a great summer – and enjoy the projects!

