

June 1, 2009

Dear Student,

Congratulations and welcome to AP English 11. This course will focus on communication via the different modes of writing. This is a course of rigorous academic study, and a basic understanding of grammar, syntax, and usage/mechanics is required. There will be an extensive amount of preparation work for classes as we develop and hone your writing skills. The overall goal of the students, as well as the instructor, is to use available materials in the effort to elevate the student's writing abilities across multiple modes, prepare the student for college level writing, and finally prepare for the AP Language and Composition Exam. Along the way, we will attempt to develop personal style and the ability to write for multiple purposes as well as audiences. I look forward to the year, and should you have any questions, please e-mail me at Robin.Lusk@vbschools.com.

Sincerely,
Ms. Stancil
AP English 11 Instructor

Summer Assignments: (Pace yourself through the summer)

1. Read Into the Wild, by Jon Krakauer. After reading this meta-biography, you will need to make ten posts to my Wiki-space in which you will discuss five topics. A minimum of two posts is required for each topic. You need to discuss how the topic relates to the book using specifics from the book in order to demonstrate completion. Each post may be a separate individual thought or idea, or it may be a response or reaction to another student's post. These responses need to be well thought out, in depth, and knowledgeable. Upon returning to school, you will take a reading quiz based on Into the Wild. The five topics are bulleted below and should be answered at <http://luskloodge.wikispaces.com>
 - On the second page of the author's notes, the author says, "I have tried – and largely succeeded, I think, - to minimize my authorial presence." What are some examples of his authorial presence, places where he inserts his personal opinion through his word choice? Do you think he has minimized it? Remember to use exact examples. Parenthetical citations will be needed for quotes and page numbers.
 - The author says on page 42 that "He seemed like a kid that was looking for something, looking for *something*." What do you think he was looking for and how were the different adventures he had (including his final) all necessary parts of that search?
 - Why did Chris McCandles adopt the name Alexander Supertramp? What freedoms does this name afford him? What does he gain, based on his situation, by the use of a pseudonym? Use specifics.

- On page 57, Alex writes, “Nothing is more damaging to the adventurous spirit than a secure future. The very basic core of a man’s living spirit is his passion for adventure.” Find several examples of proof in the text of the book that Alex, and the multiple other adventurers described by the author, truly believed and tried to live out this mantra. Remember to cite.
 - Some Alaskan natives thought Alex’s story a waste calling it a “collective cliché” (71), like all of the other myriads of young men who come north to test their metal against the cold. It is the belief of some of McCandles’ critics that he went into the untamed country of Alaska unprepared. Being specific with facts from the text, what are some examples that McCandles was “prepared”, both physically and emotionally, for his adventure?
2. Using the library or internet do some further digging into Mc Candles, the author, and the various points of view presented by those who are familiar with his story. Under Further Links, provide links (minimum two) to further learning about the subject as well as a summary of what we may find there. For at least two other links, visit the sites provided and evaluate the sites educational value and interest level.
 3. Read “The Interface Culture” by Neil Stevenson (available in hard copy in the guidance department). After reading this selection, you need to add two posts to the section titled Interface Culture. The posts may be your own position/ viewpoint or may counter a compatriot’s viewpoint. Regardless, each post should offer several items of proof to back up its position. The topic: McCandles offers the prospect of adventure and the “primordial beast” (every day with a different sunset); Stevenson addresses the surreal digitizing of life and the lack of true experiences. These points of view overlap. In which ways? How? Give examples from both texts to prove your point as well as your own personal experiences.
 4. Using “Interface Culture” and Into the Wild, as well as three other credible sources that you find on the topic of mediated experiences versus actual physical experiences, synthesize a 2-3 page typed (double spaced, Times-New Roman) well written essay using specific proof from the five sources on the pros and cons of each as well as your position on which is ultimately more positive or negative. Make sure to cite quoted and paraphrased material. Use this web site <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/09/> to help you create a “Works Cited” page for the five total sources. This paper with works cited is due on the first day of class.