AP English

Independent Studies

**What are they?**

* In AP English, you are graded on your quizzes and tests. Most of your homework is reading and studying so you are prepared for those quizzes and tests.
* You don’t have reading points, weekly MEAL Plans, or normal major projects.
* Instead, you have independent studies to offset your grade from quizzes/tests.
* For each independent study, you will research a topic that interests you and (like the name suggests) study it independently of the class
* Independent studies are a MEAL Plan offered to 9-12 general English classes, but the requirements for the AP version are slightly different
* Your independent study will consist of essentially the following processes:
  + Pick a topic (can be from literature, history, science, philosophy, or other)
  + Research the topic (with MLA citations for 10 minimum credible sources)
  + Writing a 4+ pg. essay detailing your findings (in-text citations for at least 5+ different sources with attached works cited page for all 10 researched)
  + Sharing your findings with the class, including what you learned/the big picture

**What’s the point?**

* Independent studies allow you to:
  + Pick something that actually interests you (wayyy more freedom!)
  + Work independently (develop self-reliance)
  + Master your research and citation skills (vital for college)
  + Further develop your writing skills (prewriting, drafting, editing, publishing)
  + Share what you love with the class (we get to learn from each other!)

**When is it due + How much is it worth?**

* You will have 1 independent study due near the end of every “quarter”
* Your finished essay will be due in your English folder by midnight the day prior to when you share your findings with the class
* Your first independent study essay is due October 14th by midnight, share on 15th
* Quizzes are worth 50 pts. and in-class practice essays are 20 pt. ea (# varies/quarter)
* Semester tests are worth 100 pts.
* Independent studies are worth 80 pts.
  + 30 pts. for quality of writing (conventions but also college-level diction/syntax)
  + 30 pts. for presentation of quality information (well-researched, well-conveyed)
  + 20 pts. for the citations (MLA works cited and in-text citations)
* The independent study will not be regarded as complete until the citation requirements are met (5 different in-text sources, 10 in works cited)

**So… what can I choose to research and write about?**

You have an incredible range of topics to pick from. Really, just pick the topic you want to learn more about more than anything right now and run it by Mr. Schock.

If you’re stuck and looking for some ideas, however, here’s some questions to consider.

* Is there anything I’ve learned a bit about in English or other classes (in-class, ITV, online, doesn’t matter) that I want to know more about?
* Is there information I should seek for future career reasons? (For example, if you’re thinking of being a doctor or vet, what kind of knowledge would be really useful?)
* Is there anything I could be researching that would help me in *other classes* or extra-curriculars (i.e. researching for science fair, speech topics, topics in Acalympics)
* Is there something I could learn an absurd amount about that would make me seem really, really cool? ;)
* What is something I could research that would make me smarter and my life better?

**Treat these independent studies as excuses to get points researching what you love.**