

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment. **Triton Ms. D'Alonzo**

Read Camus' *The Stranger* and choose one of the following essay topics. Your essay should be 2 full to 3 full pages in size 12 font. If possible, I would like you to email me your essay by August 30<sup>th</sup> at [cadalonzo@bhprsd.org](mailto:cadalonzo@bhprsd.org). If you do not have access to email, bring your typed essay to the first day of class.

1. Read Camus' essay "The Myth of Sisyphus." Camus wrote *The Stranger* and "The Myth of Sisyphus" around the same time. Many readers see the two texts working together to define Camus' theory of the absurd. "The Myth of Sisyphus" can be read as an attempt to clarify and to make explicit the worldview expressed in *The Stranger*, and *The Stranger* can be read as an example of the absurd hero and the absurd fiction described in "The Myth of Sisyphus".

Meursault is the absurd hero on both a literal and figurative level. He perfectly exemplifies the absurd characteristics of revolt, freedom, and passion outlined by Camus in "The Myth of Sisyphus." In an organized essay, use both texts to show how Meursault fulfills the criteria of the absurd hero. One way to approach the task is to use "The Myth of Sisyphus" as an extended definition of the absurd hero and find ways that Meursault fulfills the criteria Camus gives. An A essay will include quotes from both texts and provide excellent analysis. You are not required to use outside information; however, if you do, you must cite the sources in MLA format.

2. Is *The Stranger* a tragedy? Read Arthur Miller's essay "Tragedy and the Common Man" and use his ideas to explain Camus' portrait of Meursault. Miller is working from Aristotle's definition of tragedy where an audience's pity and fear must be aroused for catharsis (a purging of emotions) to occur. According to Aristotle, tragic heroes were kings and noblemen. Miller argues that the common man "is as apt a subject for tragedy in the highest sense as kings were." Your thesis needs to address Meursault as a common man and tragic hero. You should use quotes from Miller's essay and the novel. Make sure your quotes are proving your claim and not summarizing the texts.