Thursday, April 25, 2013 - AP English Language and Composition
What Would I Do If I Were You?

Other than my research work, this is how I would work to prepare for the AP exam. Before Monday, I would...

1. Check my multiple choice answers on Mike Rose’s “I Just Wanna Be Average.” I’d work to find out why I missed those answers, and if something really puzzled me, I’d ask Mrs. Holloway-Costa to explain. (rhetorical analysis practice)

“I Just Wanna Be Average” Multiple Choice Answers
1. c  4. c.  7. d.
2. b.  5. d.  8. e.
3. d.  

2. Look again at some of the vocabulary I encountered in the “I Just Wanna Be Average” multiple choice questions. **Do not write answers to the following; just answer and say them out loud to a friend or a parent, or if neither is available, make sure you hear yourself say it to yourself.**

a. image pattern - If you see imagery in writing that is to do with ponds, that then moves on to oceans, that then continues to puddles, then you have witnessed an image pattern.

b. mediocre (Mee-dee-oak-er!) I love this word, despite the fact that it is spelled nothing like it sounds. It means “of moderate quality, not very good.” In your opinion, what might a mediocre meal consist of?

c. detached - It means “aloof (cool and distant) and objective.” Why might someone need to behave in a detached fashion?

d. melancholy - It means “sad, gloomy, or depressed.” Do you know anyone like this?

e. didactic - It means “intended to teach, particularly in having moral instruction as an ulterior motive” and it can also mean “in the manner of a teacher, particularly so as to treat someone in a patronizing way.” (Regarding the former definition, yay! Regarding the latter definition, is that what teachers are supposed to be like?!) 

f. retrospective - It means “looking back on or dealing with past events or situations” because retro means “back” and spect (think of spectacles and spectators!) means “look.” About what part of your life do you believe you are most retrospective? How about in 20 years?

g. discursive - This one has a few different meanings.
1. digressing from subject to subject
2. (of a style of speech or writing) fluent and expansive rather than formulaic or abbreviated
3. of or relating to discourse or modes of discourse (written or spoken communication or debate OR a formal discussion of a topic in speech or writing)
3. Examples for terms you wanted to review:
   a. anaphora: "But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition."
   b. antithesis - "Tonight you voted for action, not politics as usual. You elected us to focus on your jobs, not ours."
   c. colloquial - I dropped the kids off at the pool. (Think of the opposite, which is formal: I conveyed the children to the swimming pool/natatorium.)
   d. syllogism - See the following:
      Major premise: All men are mortal.
      Minor premise: Socrates is a man.
      Conclusion: Socrates is mortal.
   e. zeugma - Mr. Jones took his coat and his leave of our office.

4. Time for some timed writing practice! This will be counted as a homework grade. Time yourself for no fewer than 35 minutes and 50 minutes tops for one of the two practice essays attached to this sheet. It’s your choice! I will take up one on Monday and the other on Wednesday. By now you’ll like to figure out about how long each essay should take. Synthesis? Rhetorical analysis? Argument? I look forward to reading your work! (Note the inclusion of notorious news source The Onion!)

See you on Monday!