



## AP English III, Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Novel: *Conversion* by Katherine Howe  
ISBN: 978-0-14-751155-3

Welcome!

This summer you will read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe. This novel of scandal, deceit, pride, and faith allows us to begin discussing the techniques authors use in their writing to create a story and to examine how authors use history to develop a story while also commenting on contemporary issues.

**Task - Please read this packet in its entirety. If you have questions, please email me.**

1. Research the Salem Witch Trials - have a general knowledge of these events.
2. Use the following definition of a modern day witch hunt
  - a. **noun. The definition of a witch hunt is a situation where accusations are made freely, especially against someone or something that is not popular with the majority.** An example of a witch hunt is when many women were burned at the stake in Salem, Massachusetts.
3. Develop your understanding of how modern witch hunts begin and are fueled (fear ≠ logic/reason)

**Project outline:**

1. **Choose a real life example of a modern day witch hunt. This can be something recent or something of the past. Some examples are:**
  1. 9/11: Repercussions felt throughout Europe and the U.S.
  2. Mid-East Witch Executions: Including Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan
  3. Ebola Outbreak: Worldwide
  4. WW II Internment Camps: Held captive in the U.S. - Germans, Japanese, and Italians
  5. The A.I.D.S. Epidemic: How the U.S and the world reacted to this illness
  6. Modern Day Witch Hunt: Africa
  7. 1950s Red Scare: United States

**\*You are not limited to this list. These are simply examples that might help give you a better understanding of a witch hunt. Choose a topic that truly interests you. Email me if you want confirmation on your topic.**

- 2. After choosing your topic, answer the following questions in research essay format. Use the guidelines from [Purdueowl.com](http://Purdueowl.com) for MLA format. Check the back of this packet for more details on **MLA**.**
  1. Record the title of the event(s).
  2. What is/are the underlying societal problem(s) at this time?
  3. Who or what was identified as the scapegoat?
  4. What happened to the scapegoat and to society during the "hunting" phase?
  5. What permanent damage was caused by this witch hunt?
  6. Compare this event to the Salem Witch Trials. List 2 similarities and 2 differences.
  7. What is your reaction to this event?
  8. Connect this event to the overall plot of the novel. How do different characters relate to the people in your event you are researching?
  
- 3. Create a visual of some kind that will help you teach the class about your chosen witch hunt. This can be anything – options are limited! Get creative and play to your strengths. For example, if you are artistically inclined, you can create an illustration that will help explain your chosen research topic. If you are great with technology, create a video, etc. This project will set the tone for the school year, so put your best efforts into it.**

**Please make sure you show on the first day of school with your research paper, and visual in order to stay in AP English III.**

**I am very excited to meet all of you and hopeful for a wonderful school year. Please do not hesitate to email me with questions or concerns. Happy reading!**

Please contact the following teachers with any questions:

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