

Rockville High School
International Baccalaureate Program

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Rockville HS English Department
Pre-IB English 9 Summer Reading Assignment



Thoughtful analysis and critical reading are essential skills for every course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Start now to develop these important strategies.

1. Read the following TWO works by the first day of school:

Antigone Sophocles (recommended translation: Fagles or Watling)
and
Antigone Anouilh (recommended translation: Bray)

These works are also available through the RHS English department (for summer check-out) or at local book stores, public libraries, or the RHS Media Center. It is extremely helpful to annotate and/or highlight as you read. Write notes in the margins or use post-it notes for the books that you borrow from the library or English Department.

2. Complete the following writing assignments. Please put your responses to the assignments below in a **marbled composition book**. Avoid using spirals or notebooks as they can fall apart. **Handwrite** your responses. Plan ahead. Do not try to complete the reading and the writing the night before schools starts!

ASSIGNMENTS – to be collected on the first day of school.

1. **COMMENTARY 1** - Select a passage from the Sophocles version of Antigone of approximately 20-25 lines. Copy or attach a photocopy of the passage in your journal. Choose your passage carefully and take time to annotate and/or mark the passage before writing. (avoid dialogue passages and look for an extended speech by one character). Begin your analysis by identifying **the central focus** of the passage (the main idea). Then move systematically through the passage and talk about the language of the passage. Do not just summarize the content of the passage but write about **how the language of the passage creates meaning**.
2. **COMMENTARY 2** - Select a passage from the Anouilh version of Antigone of approximately 20-25 lines. Copy or attach a photocopy of the passage in your journal. Choose your passage carefully and take time to annotate and/or mark the passage before writing. (avoid dialogue passages and look for an extended speech by one character). Begin your analysis by identifying **the central focus** of the passage (the main idea). Then move systematically through the passage and talk about the language of the passage. Do not just summarize the content of the passage but write about **how the language of the passage creates meaning**.
3. **COMPARISON** – Select **ONE** character who appears in both versions of Antigone. Discuss the similarities between the ways in which Sophocles develops the character and the ways in which Anouilh develops that same character. Look closely at what this character says, does, or how he/she interacts with others. Be sure to include and incorporate specific and relevant textual details to support your understanding (cite page numbers for direct quotations in parentheses).
4. **CONTRAST** - – Select **ONE** character who appears in both versions of Antigone. Discuss the differences between the ways in which Sophocles develops the character and the ways in which Anouilh develops that same character. Look closely at what this character says, does, or how he/she interacts with others. Be sure to include and incorporate specific and relevant textual details to support your understanding (cite page numbers for direct quotations in parentheses).

We look forward to working with you during the coming school year.

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