

August 2017

Students,

Welcome to English 11! Here we go off on a journey for the next few months that will involve a lot of laughs, a lot of work, and a lot of fun. While most of you have seen me before in the halls, many of you may not have had me in class before, so I want to introduce myself. For those returning students, I have some new information to share this year that you might find interesting.

This is my fourth year at Haddam-Killingworth High School; however, I am originally from Pennsylvania, born and raised in York, PA which is on the eastern side of the state near(ish) Philadelphia. I went to college on the western side of the state, however, where I played Collegiate Women's Basketball for Clarion University as their starting center. I am the youngest child of six; I have four brothers and a sister. All of us grew up in an athletic setting, most of us are over six feet in height, although I was also a part of choir and the honors choir ensembles. This summer I played in a basketball league I was too old for, traveled into Boston and NYC, and took two writing courses outside of my comfort zone.

As a teacher, I try to be a model for what I expect of you as students. I try my best to be organized and efficient in whatever I do. I try to do my homework on time. I want to have perfect attendance. While I try every day to do my best, there are some days where I don't meet all of the goals I set for myself. When that happens, I think about how I can remedy the situation and start to do so right away.

I pride myself on learning with you. We are in this together! This classroom should be somewhere you feel comfortable, and I strive to make it that way. This is a question-based, discussion-based, and sharing-based environment that we will work hard to foster during our time together.

Eleventh grade brings unique experiences. You will be learning how to drive, working at your first or second job, and planning life beyond high school. Where you begin this year will most certainly not be where you finish. Embrace the challenges and cherish the time you have to develop who you are, what defines you, and where you want to go.

I hope you are ready, because I know I am...here we go!

Sincerely,

Ms. Deibert

Student Introduction Letter (25 pts)

Name:

Period:

Miss Deibert

What is it?

You will be writing an informal letter to me where you will be providing some information about yourself. Feel free to use personal pronouns; it is appropriate in this assignment.

Why are we doing this?

I want to learn a little about you and start to look at how you think and write. Additionally, I would like to attach some facts about you to the name on my attendance roster.

When is it due? How long should it be? Can I type it? Does it count toward my grade?

It will be due Friday, September 1. It should be about a page and you can type it. If you wish to hand it in handwritten, it must be neat and professional. Do not include wrinkles, stains, or fringes on the side. Basically, you want to hand in something that you are proud to call yours. Yes, it does count as a writing assignment; it will be graded on mechanics, spelling, and following directions.

What should it have in it?

A quality opening to the letter (that includes a day & date in the upper right hand quadrant of the paper as well as a direct address to me (Mr. O'Brien) and the class of which you are a part)

A paragraph or two in which you introduce yourself, tell us where you live, and about the people with whom you live (be sure to include some information about those people – be descriptive, try to be interesting.) Feel free to include hobbies, activities, work, service, and/or sports that might help me to get to know you better.

A paragraph on one or two strengths that you may have as a student and one or two weaknesses you have as a student.

A paragraph or two about two goals you want to accomplish by the end of this school year 2017-2018, and an explanation as to how you might go forward and achieve them. Include anything else that you think might be interesting about you or your family so that the instructor/class might be able to get to know you better.

A quality closing to the letter that includes words like "Sincerely," "Respectfully," or "Cordially," and your name.

Good luck writing, I have written my own letter which is on the reverse side of this assignment.