

Humanities English 2H Criterion and Summer Reading

The Humanities Academy is offering English 2H for the 2015-2016 school year. The class will be integrated within the regular English 2 class, and many of the assignments will have similarities as the English 2 class. The criterion for Humanity Academy English 2H student is as follows:

- Earned a “B” or better in English 1
- Voracious reader
- Inquisitive mind
- Able to produce creativity in academics and art
- Can work independently and within small groups
- Able to present and teach peers
- Formidable writer or enjoys writing analytical, reflective, argumentative, and synthesis essays
- Solid writing skills
- Can accept academic criticism
- Understands that the grade is secondary to the journey of knowledge
- Critical thinker

The first required 2H assignment and your “ticket” to get into the program on Day 1 of your sophomore year is to create a personal response that combines the play and selected article.

- **Summer reading: *The Merchant of Venice* , Shakespeare’s dark romantic comedy and related articles**
- **Due on the first day of class:** A typed personal response that examines the treatment of Shylock in the context of history and the play. Thoughts to ponder: What is Shylock’s career? Why is he in this career? How does Antonio, the merchant of Venice, treat Shylock? What evidence is there that Antonio is racist against Shylock? What is the outcome of the trial? What has the court required of Shylock? Has Antonio’s anti-Semitism changed? Is Antonio a changed man? In the context of the articles about medieval and Renaissance anti-Semitism, explain the environment of being Jewish in medieval and Renaissance Europe.
- **Minimum of one typed page, MLA standard**