

Welcome to Honors English IV!

This work is **OPTIONAL**, but we would love it if you'll do it – it's short, we promise!

We want to welcome you to College Prep and Honors English IV! It is such a great class; you're in for a real treat! Our goal is to make you a savvy reader and writer who is READY FOR COLLEGE! Working toward that goal is going to be a lot of fun, and with a positive attitude and strong work ethic, we know you will have a successful year in in H Adv Comp. Your choice to take this class tells us that you are looking ahead to college and that you want to be successful too. With that in mind we want to help you learn "to write effectively, argue persuasively, solve problems creatively, and adapt and learn independently" (Falk qtd. in Turkle 247).

Before we make assignments in this course, we ask – Will this help these guys get into college and/or help them once they're there? If the answer is "no" then we don't do the assignment. That's our promise to you.

Given that, we'd like for you to read a short article written by the author of our first novel – *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel – before she wrote *Station Eleven*, she wrote an essay about Ebola – this is an introductory activity for the novel study.

["You'll Probably Never Catch Ebola--So Why is the Disease so Terrifying?"](#)

After you read the article, please jot down any thoughts you have about it, (give them to us day 1 or 2 or the semester for a BONUS GRADE!) Everyone will be doing this (as a required grade) by the second Monday of the semester, so you can get a jump start, but you don't have to.

Lastly, read this quote (from *Station Eleven*) – do you have any thoughts?
Pandemics don't approach like wars, with the distant thud of artillery growing louder every day and flashes of bombs on the horizon. They arrive in retrospect, essentially. It's disorienting. The pandemic is far away and then it's all around you with seemingly no intermediate step.