

Welcome to AP-English IV!

During the summer I would like for you to read *Anna Karenina* by **Leo Tolstoy**. I have provided some topics of interest for you to consider as you read:

To what extent does religion play a major role in the novel?

How does Tolstoy address religion and Christian values in the novel?

How does Tolstoy manipulate the readers' feelings toward various characters?

Tolstoy does remarkable work of providing intricate details regarding his characters. What do these details do, and how do the details change your feelings about some of the issues that the characters face?

Compare and contrast how adultery is treated when Stiva commits it to when Anna commits it. Why do you think there is a difference, and what does it mean?

Do a bit of delving into Russian history. What was going on at the time that Tolstoy wrote this novel?

What can we ascertain about Russia and its people during this time from this novel? Also, consider Western Europe. How was it different? Why do you think Tolstoy includes Western European elements in this novel?

Lastly, there are vast differences concerning how female and male characters are treated in the novel. Consider why Tolstoy shines such a bright light on these differences. What might he be attempting to accomplish, and is he successful?

After you finish reading write a 700-900 word essay based on one of the questions listed above.

Your essay must have perfect grammar and be in MLA format. You should include at least 4 quotes (no longer than 15 words each) from the primary text to support your reasoning. Make sure that you introduce each quote with its context (what was happening at this point in the book? Who was there? Etc). Then, make sure to fully explain how the quote supports your argument. You should include a works cited

page. Your paper should be well organized with an introduction and thesis statement, body paragraphs with topic sentences, concrete details, and commentary, and a conclusion.

When you finish writing your essay, you will need to submit it to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). Your Course is English IV AP and your enrollment key is Milton.

Good luck! I hope you enjoy the reading, and I look forward to meeting you all in August!

Janet Baarsch
jbaarsch@loyolaprep.org