Dear Class,

I am so very excited to open this semester when I welcome you in just a few short days to my English class!

Because there is so much I want to share and experience with you, I'm asking that you to do just four things to prepare for the first class next Tuesday. I know this request sounds unusual, but these things will help us work more productively, save us about a week's worth of work (who doesn't want that?), and give you a sense of the course and where I want to take you in it. (Don't you feel rushed at the beginning of the semester? These quick tasks will reduce the anxiety and pressures of that first week.)

So before the first class, I'd like you to prepare by doing just a few things:

First, I want you to watch a short screencast (movie) I prepared to tell you a bit about me, the course, and the syllabus; it won't take you long to view it: <https://www.dropbox.com/xxxx>

Second, I would like you to read the electronic version of the syllabus thoroughly: not just as an appetizer, but as a full course meal. Digest it thoroughly. Scan it first. Look at the headings. Read a bit of one section that interests you or about which you're curious and come back for the rest during the remainder of the week. In other words, distribute your reading throughout this week instead of reading it all in one swoop. Here's the direct link:<https://www.dropbox.com/xxxx>

Third, quiz yourself on it, just as you would study any text for a test because there will be a test on that first day (actually, two tests, but more on that later in class!).

You can always find the screencast and the electronic version of the syllabus in the folder BEFORE COMING TO THE FIRST CLASS, which is found at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/xxxx>

Why not bookmark this following link because we'll use it throughout the semester? It contains all the folders by class week.

<https://www.dropbox.com/xxxx>

Fourth, as a bonus, any student enrolled in the course who texts me after reading this e-mail--the one you're reading right now--will receive 10 bonus points on the first day quiz, even if those students earn all 100 points. Text to 81010 with this in the message subject line: @yourclassname. That's it. (For the few students who prefer e-mail or don't have a cell phone capable of receiving texts, they may send a message to yourclassname@mail.remind.com with the subject line blank.)

For this bonus to count, you must follow these directions exactly and complete them before <date> at noon.

Again, I'm really looking forward to meeting you next week!

Cheers,

Dr. Hafer