

Advanced Placement Language and Composition Summer Reading (2023-2024)

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The AP Language and Composition course is designed to substitute for a college composition course; therefore, you will be required to read complex texts with understanding as well as to enrich your prose in order to communicate your ideas effectively to mature audiences. You will learn how to analyze and interpret exemplary writing by discerning and explaining the author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques, eventually applying many of these techniques to your own writing. In order to prepare for our seminars, you are required to complete the assignments explained below.

All assignments are due on the first day of class.

Assignment One:

Because the majority of material read in AP Language and Composition is non-fiction, students will read *How to Read Non-Fiction Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. As students read, they should annotate, take notes, and look for new information that can be applied to the reading we will do in class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the information imparted in the book.

- Focus on the following sections of the book:
 - The Introduction
 - Chapters 1-5
 - Chapters 10-12
 - Chapters 15-16

Assignment Two:

1. Students should choose ONE of the following books from the following list. Please note that these books have been suggested for AP Language and Composition class and not all books are suitable for all students. Please read reviews and conduct research on your choices before making a final choice.

Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin

Olympics by Daniel James Brown

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal by Eric Schlosser

Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, A Dream by H.G. Bissinger

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeanette Walls

Grace Will Lead us Home: The Charleston Church Tragedy and the Hard Inspiring Journey to Forgiveness by Jennifer Berry Hawes
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom
Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of The Black Women Mathematicians who Helped win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly
I am Malala: The Girl who Stood up for Education and was shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai, with Christina Lamb
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore
The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore
Same Kind of Different as Me by Denver Moore, Lynn Vincent, and Ron Hall
The Things they Carried by Tim O'Brien
Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson

1. After reading the book, write (**hand-written on notebook paper**) a one paragraph critique of the book. What did you like and why? What did you dislike and why? Did the book change you or change your way of thinking? Explain. Critique the author's writing style. You should provide specific examples from the text to support your statements.

Note: You are encouraged to read the same book as others in the class (up to three per book). If you choose to work with others, you may also include the group's thoughts as a whole and any differing opinions that you may have encountered.

2. In addition to writing a personal response, you should also write another paragraph(**hand-written on notebook paper**) detailing how your reading was affected after reading *How to Read Non-Fiction Like a Professor*. This response should include specific examples of how you read your book differently. For example, did you consider structure as you read? Did you notice different elements that you had not paid attention to before? As you write your response, be sure to include specific examples from the text.

Assignment Three:

Find a podcast and listen to at least five episodes. The podcast should have something to do with current events or real-world situations. You are encouraged to read reviews before

committing to the podcast. Additionally, do not feel that you have to commit to one. If you start to listen and realize it just isn't "your thing," stop listening and find another one better suited to your interests. Suggestions include:

- 60 Second Health
- American Icons
- Criminal
- The Daily
- ESPN 30 for 30
- Harry Potter and the Sacred Text
- How I Built This
- Imagined Life
- Lore
- TED Talks Daily
- This American Life
- This I Believe
- Unscured with Aaron Mahnke

Please feel free to do additional research and find a podcast that works for you. Remember, the podcast should be educational and should have something to do with the real-world or current events.

For each episode, write **(hand-written on notebook paper)** a two-paragraph response. In the first paragraph, provide a brief overview of the episode. What was the topic, the title? Who were the narrators? How long was the episode? What episode number was it? Was this a sequel? Prequel? Stand-alone? Your second paragraph should be a personal response. What did you learn after listening to the podcast? How was listening to a story different from reading a story? Provide your opinions on the topic. What were your thoughts going into the episode? What were your thoughts after the episode? You might consider writing this paragraph like a review.