

Advanced Placement Language and Composition Summer Reading (2024-2025)

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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:

Purchase a copy of 5 Steps to a 5: AP Language and Composition 2024. This book can be found on Amazon

https://www.amazon.com/Steps-English-Language-Composition-2024/dp/1265288631/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1A82TFX69DEFK&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.4CHcs-ZgkAKI62wGMJh3Fhu5GJu4CMpGEj5sqdUc9jHpl3H445FKw0JPa-2LJNzK46UYF6KnQh0SEUX178Bm8Ufsc-tUyvOZ9Mmi5m7wBL-gMI CLfNiRrqaKCYzKTou_fO2ei2qtzb45bFU-JZgOXqDS_3bKf5jy8X0jSiarhv19Ri3b5mWd20aDmsBWr-WizQ7BrJnW8d9nPzW5oOucfwifCIGw90LIUISdZcGTVp4.0QcSW5pj9ufNzc-VuIR417KqK1Y4LA5_zvYe1lc65hw&dib_tag=se&keywords=five+steps+to+a+5+ap+language&qid=1713793232&sprefix=five+steps+to+a+5+ap+language+%2Caps%2C93&sr=8-1

Read Chapter One

Read Chapter Two (skip pages 12 and 13)

Browse through Chapter Three, paying attention to the test and its format. Write down any questions that you have.

Read Chapter Four and complete the diagnostic test. There is an answer key on page 63.

Because this is a timed test and because I want you to get used to taking this test without being able to check your answers, please wait until you have finished taking the test to check your responses. Once you have finished, read pages 64-67. Explanations of answers are given on these pages.

Read Chapter Five. This is a VERY IMPORTANT chapter since we will be learning how to write a rhetorical analysis first. Read through the sample essays and how they are graded. Take notes and write down any questions you may have as you read.

- Complete the assignments included within the chapter.

*** We will be using this book throughout the school year. Please bring this book to class.

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. You may not choose a book that you have previously read.

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

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

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

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

I am Malala: The Girl who Stood up for Education and was shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai, with Christina Lamb

I'm Glad my Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy

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 Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet by John Green

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.

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:

- American Icons
- Criminal
- Dear Hank and John
- The Daily
- ESPN 30 for 30
- Harry Potter and the Sacred Text
- How I Built This
- Imagined Life
- Lore
- Part-Time Genius
- Radio Lab
- Song Exploder
- Stuff You Missed in History Class
- TED Talks Daily
- This American Life
- This I Believe
- Unscured with Aaron Mahnke
- Views with David DeBrik and Jason Nash
- Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me

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.

Assignment Four:

Watch a documentary. If you Google “best documentaries,” you will be given many to choose from. You can also use this link to find some documentaries best-suited for teenagers: <https://www.common sense media.org/lists/best-documentaries>. The documentary must be a full-length format (not one that comes out in separate episodes) and should be about a topic you are interested in but not familiar with.

Once you have watched the documentary, you should write a reflection that includes:

- The title of the documentary.
- The platform on which you watched the documentary.
- A brief summary of the documentary.
- Write briefly about what you think the purpose of the documentary is? What led you to this conclusion?
- What did the makers of the documentary do to attempt to convince the audience to change their minds or behaviors?
- Rate the documentary in your own terms. Did you like it? Why or why not?