AP Language and Composition Summer Reading List 2017

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This assignment is designed to help you prepare for college and the AP exam, where skills developed by avid reading are essential. Only the well-read student can respond intelligently to the open essay question on the AP exam; therefore, summer reading is vital to your success. This summer assignment packet contains directions, assignment descriptions, and an essay rubric. Assignments are due on the days posted below. Please know that these due dates can be manipulated as I do not know your summer schedule. You need to be in contact with me before the due dates to make arrangements for different dates. Please email me your attached document to the email message and provide a short message with your name and class (AP Language and Composition) or post in our Google Classroom. I will let you know by 10:00 AM the following day if I received your work. If you do not hear from me, I did not receive your message. Work due on the first day of school can be submitted electronically via email, Google classroom, or by printed hard copy. If you do not have access to a computer hand written documents are fine.

The summer assignment for AP Language not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. Other reasons for the summer assignment include time constraints during the school year – there just isn’t enough time to read all the material necessary to adequately prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam.

One of the main differences between an AP English class and a regular English class is the amount of effort students are required to put into their work. An AP student is expected to always put all of their thinking and effort into assignments and readings. This kind of effort is expected on every aspect of the summer assignment.

Assignments and due dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Reading #1 Nonfiction:</th>
<th>Essay is due July 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Viewing:</td>
<td>Before class begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Reading #2</td>
<td>Essay is due August 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Reading #1 Nonfiction:** Much (but not all) of our reading next year will focus on different types of non-fiction texts. Select one and complete Summer Essay #1. The requirements will follow this list.

- *Outliers: The Story of Success* - Malcom Gladwell
- *Shaken: Discovering . . . Storms* - Tim Tebow & A. J. Gregory
- *The Long Loneliness* – Dorothy Day
- *This is your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession* – Daniel J. Levitin
- *Assassination Vacation* – Sarah Vowell
- *Above the Line: Lessons in Leadership and Life from a Championship Season* - Urban Meyer
- *I am Malala: The girl . . . Shot by the Taliban* – Malala Yousalzai & C. Lamb
- *In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto* – Michael Pollan
You will write an essay based on one of the non-fiction books above. Your essay will be graded according to the attached AP Language rubric and will be due via email message July 6. Set up your paper according to MLA guidelines (heading in top left corner, unique title, double-spaced 12-point font, Times New Roman).

**Prompt**- Works of non-fiction, whether implicitly or explicitly, present an argument to the reader and support this argument with different types of evidence and rhetorical techniques. Select the book you read from the list above and briefly identify the work’s central argument. Then analyze the evidence and techniques the author uses to support his or her argument. Finally, in the conclusion, evaluate the argument as a whole. Avoid summarizing the text and focus on analyzing and evaluating the evidence.

**Required Viewing:** Please view this movie prior to the beginning of school. There will be a discussion and quiz over this “text”.

*West Side Story* (1961) Directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins. This film is rated G

**Required Reading #2 Choice and Essay:** (Select 1) Do you have a book that has been on your reading list and haven’t the time to pick it up? Now is your time to catch up. If you do not have an idea, here are a couple of suggestions. If you do select a book of your choice, please email me the title and a brief note introducing your choice. My email address is lapplegate@Wayne-local.com.

- *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
- *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- *The Soloist*, by Steve Lopez

**Required Reading 2 Essay:**

There are three statements about literature. Support one of the following statements and explain how that statement proves true in regards to your chosen novels using specific citations from the two works.

- Your response should reflect your thoughts, observations, and analysis of the book you chose for this class. For this project, research is discouraged. Your response should be original.

- Do not summarize; critically analyze the text.

- 6 paragraphs (intro, body paragraphs, conclusion) and a Works Cited page

- At a minimum Two citations per body paragraph

- Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced

- Use MLA format for in-text citations and Works Cited page
• Due Date: August 11. ~Make sure it is emailed

Statement One: "A story must be exceptional enough to justify its telling; it must have something more unusual to relate than the ordinary experience of every average man and woman" --- Thomas Hardy

Statement Two: "What lasts is what is written. We look to literature to find the essence of an age" --- Peter Brodie

Statement Three: "The book to read is not the one that thinks for you but the one that makes you think" -- Harper Lee

Sources

AP Language and Composition Terms

AP Essay Rubrics (See page 3 - AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION – GRADING RUBRIC – ARGUMENT ESSAY)

So, good people, I know that an AP class is a lot of work. My goal is to create assignments that have meaning and enhance your scores for the AP exam next May. I am looking forward to delving into the argument of language with you and your peers. This class will be fun and amusing if we all work for one goal – 5’s on the AP Exam!

Keep in touch. I will enjoy hearing from you!

Mrs. Applegate
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