

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

Summer Reading Assignments 2018

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We very much look forward to working with you in Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. This is a rigorous course in which you will learn how to write for a variety of purposes, with an additional focus on analyzing prose, media, and the world around you. Prepare to be challenged and sometimes confused by what you read and how or what you will be required to write and think about. Hopefully, you will find the course both rewarding and challenging.

In order to hit the ground running in September, the following assignments must be completed over the summer. These assignments and books will be referred to throughout the year, and you will be expected to analyze them individually as well as in comparison to other works studied in class.

Feel free to contact any of us at one of the email addresses above. We will check email quasi-regularly throughout the summer. If you have questions about an assignment or your responses, just email any of us and we will be happy to help you. ALL assignments are due on the first day of school unless directed otherwise.

Required Summer Texts:

- *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien
- *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger

Assignment #1: Analyze newspaper/magazine editorials

The focus of the grade 11 AP course is understanding, analyzing, and writing non-fiction prose. This assignment will give you practice in reading and responding to essays and arguments as well as in becoming an “informed citizen.”

Over the summer, **read, clip, and paste/staple into a journal EIGHT editorials or commentaries/essays** (NOT news articles or letters to the editor) from reputable newspapers or issues-based magazines. Be sure to identify the source and date of the article, along with the name of the columnist. A minimum of three different sources must be used in the compilation of your editorial journal. Finally, in order to guard against any “last minute” efforts, we are requiring that half of your editorials be published in June/July and the other half from August. Try to select editorials that are of interest to you as opposed to simply “whatever is available.”

Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines:

- *The Boston Globe* (newspaper)
- *The New York Times* (newspaper)
- *The Wall Street Journal* (newspaper)
- *USA Today* (newspaper)

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

- *The New Yorker* (magazine)
- *Atlantic Monthly* (magazine)
- *Newsweek, Time, or Harper's* (magazines)

Enter your responses to the editorials, commenting on the aspects of each editorial that made you think, and explaining your own opinions about the editorial or the issue. Each response should be thoughtful and detailed, at a length of between 250-500 words per response.

Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:

- Do you agree or disagree with the editorial's viewpoints? Why?
- What about the editorial made you want to know more about the issue?
- What are some of the author's best arguments? What makes them so good?
- Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you? Why?
- How does this editorial connect with information you already knew?
- Does the editorial make you think about anything else or remind you of something else?

DUE: First day of school

Assignment #2: In-class essay

At some point within the first two weeks of school, students will complete an in-class essay based on the summer reading books. The format of the essay will closely align with of the Advanced Placement Language and Composition Exam.