

Summer Reading
AP English Language and Composition
2021-2022

Dear Students,

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. My expectation is that you will be engaged and purposeful with these assignments. Rushed or ill-considered writing and analysis are easy to spot. Your grades will be based on quality. This course is written on the college level and has been created to engage you as a college reader, writer, and thinker while still in high school. Taking the AP Exam at the end of the year is required for all students who want a weighted grade.

The mere fact that you have chosen to pursue the path of an AP scholar speaks to the fact that you are a highly-motivated student who is driven to succeed. This course demands a measure of discipline, and I expect your very best effort in your approach to every assignment, beginning with the summer reading expectation. A dedicated, self-motivated student views summer reading not as a laborious chore, but as an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to learn something new, and an opportunity to delight in wisdom. This is how I hope you will approach your summer reading; for if you cannot, you may be enrolled in the wrong course.

This year we will discuss style with an eye for rhetoric and purpose. As you read more, you will become more and more accustomed to recognizing the strategies and techniques that writers employ; and, hopefully, you will come to employ similar successful strategies in your own writing.

Due to the fact that this is a college level class, **you are required to buy your own book**. Below are the required resources for this course. I will be supplementing these resources with handouts and packets. I suggest using [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). It is pertinent that the ISBN number for the text that you buy correspond with the listed ISBN number below:

Thank You For Arguing, Revised and Updated Edition: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion – Jay Heinrichs
ISBN-13: 978-0385347754

This assigned book must be purchased and read prior to the first day of school. You will be annotating in this book on a regular basis. If purchasing a used book from Amazon, I highly suggest that you look for the least marked one available. Sellers on Amazon will include notes regarding the book's condition.

Required Supplies for AP Lang and Comp:

- ★ Pens (multiple colors including black)
- ★ Folder with pockets
- ★ Loose leaf paper
- ★ Organizational skills

Summer Reading Assignment

The best way to be successful with this assignment, or any other assignment throughout the school year, is to read the books and articles carefully and analytically. The bottom line is that you must do all the reading assignments; therefore, be sure to begin summer reading early in order to complete the assignment on time.

Students who wait until August to begin the summer reading often cannot give the reading assignments the full concentration that they require. **The assessments and assignments that you take and complete the first week of class based off of your reading will be a major part of your grade for the first two weeks of school. Be prepared to either take a test on the following texts and/or write an essay on them the first two days of school. We will be referencing these texts throughout the year. Summer reading is required. Failure to complete summer reading and meet the summer deadlines will result in removal from AP Language and Composition.**

If you find yourself lost, struggling, and/or confused throughout the summer, *please* reach out to me. You can always email me, and I will email you as soon as possible. Ask some of my students; I'm pretty obsessed with responding to email. Also, if you want to ever meet up over the summer for help, please just let me know.

Assignment : *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs (one of you required texts for this class)

What makes an argument work? When analyzing rhetoric, what can you look for throughout texts? Jay Heinrichs's book provides you with insights into the art of persuasive written or oral language (rhetoric) by building a foundation of classical rhetoric but then also linking it to the tricks of the great speakers of history as well as to pop culture. When we return to school, we will examine exemplary writings, figure out what makes them tick, and learn to use these tricks of the trade in your own writing.

1. Read chapters 1-17 (We will finish the rest of the book throughout the school year).
2. Take brief notes on each chapter. Keep notes organized by chapter.
3. Write a one page reflection on what you found useful.

Due Date: First day of school

I look forward to working with you in the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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