

2019-2020 AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

To: **Students enrolled in AP English Language and Composition**
From: Mrs. Coates
Date: May 2019
Re: Summer Reading Assignment

Please read all requirements carefully.

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! This course is equivalent in rigor of a college level course in rhetoric, literature studies, and composition. The focus of AP Language and Composition is an intensive analysis of both fiction and non-fiction, as well as composition structure, syntax, and style.

Please be aware that AP scholars are expected to be dedicated, self-disciplined, and self-motivated. Your teacher has recommended you for this course; therefore, they believe that you are prepared for the rigorous coursework this class demands. By signing up for this course, you indicate that you have achieved competency at or above grade level in grammar, usage, mechanics, and sentence structure. If you do not like to read, struggle with reading comprehension, or don't believe in homework, this may not be the course for you.

In order to be prepared for our readings and writings, you should work towards becoming aware of the pressing issues in today's world. These issues may be political, environmental, cultural, military, social, global, economic, education, scientific, etc. To begin to create a foundation for this course, read quality news sources. Some of the best writers in America today are columnists and journalists whose writings about our world are syndicated by major American newspapers. Examine both sides of the issues, evaluate the rhetoric, and become more than a passive consumer of information.

That being said, congratulations on embarking on this new adventure! If you have any questions over the summer, please contact me at jocelyn.coates@washington.k12.mo.us.

Summer Reading Requirements:

There are three parts to your Summer Reading Assignment. See descriptions below:

Part I: Choose one book, annotate, and prepare answers to the questions below in a typed, properly formatted MLA document. **Number your responses.** Demonstrate your best knowledge of diction, grammar, and conventions – proofread. Submissions must be printed and submitted to Turnitin.com by the end of the first week of school.

1. What is the **rhetorical context** for your chosen book? In other words, what social, cultural, political, or other circumstances motivated the author to write the book?
2. What is the author's **thesis**? Identify his or her argumentative **position**.
3. What is the **author's purpose**? What does he hope to **achieve**? How do you know? Include properly cited text evidence to support your answer.
4. Describe the author's **specific** intended audience. Thoroughly **explain why** this work would appeal to the particular audience you identify.
5. What were the **three** most **convincing** passages of the book? Using proper MLA format, quote specific passages (including chapter titles and page references) and explain **why** these were so convincing. Each passage should be drawn from a **different** chapter.

BOOK LIST

1. *A Long Way Gone: A Story of a Soldier Boy* by Ishmael Beah (war, human culture) social media, sociology)
2. *Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall (endurance sports, anthropology)
3. *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey (environmentalism, wilderness, philosophy)
4. *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller (memoir, Africa)
5. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (economics, sociology)
6. *How Starbucks Saved My Life* by Michael Gates Gill (sociology)
7. *Into Thin Air* by John Krakauer (mountain climbing, history, tragedy, social commentary)
8. *Savage Inequalities* by Jonathon Kozol (education, sociology, class systems)
9. *The Beauty Myth* by Naomi Wolf (sociology, feminism)
10. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by Oliver Sacks (medicine)
11. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan (nutrition science and human culture)
12. *The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* by Alexandra Robbins (education, psychology, sociology)
13. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicolas Carr (technology)
14. *The Up Side of Down* by Megan McArdle (psychology)
15. *Where Men Win Glory* by John Krakauer (sports, war, American history)

** I have several copies of *Into Thin Air* that students may borrow. First come, first serve!

Part II: Read *On Writing* by Stephen King. You may purchase a copy of the book, or you may find a PDF version online.

After reading, reflect on your past experiences as a reader and as a writer and compose a one-page memoir, like King's, that provides insight into your personal history. Try to elaborate on the experiences that have had a lasting impact on your development as a reader and a writer and how they have shaped you into the literary person you are today. Allow King to inspire you with his first 99 pages of *On Writing*. Take a chance. Be bold. Impress. Hard copy submissions due the first day of school; turnitin submissions due by the end of the first week of school.

Part III: Be prepared to demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the following rhetorical terms/strategies **and** their purpose the first day of school:

- Rhetoric
- Ethos
- Logos
- Pathos
- Anecdote
- Irony
- Satire
- Rhetorical question
- Paradox
- Juxtaposition
- Syntax
 - Loose
 - Cumulative
 - Periodic

Failure to turn in these assignments will put you in a very deep hole before the year even begins. There will be no excuses for non-completion. Remember that AP Language and Composition is a college-level course and there are certain behaviors expected from all students in this class; responsibility and maturity rank highly among them.

An electronic copy of this assignment is on the WHS Library webpage.

Happy reading! See you fall 2019!

Please note: The summer reading assignment should be the product solely of **your** thoughts, effort, and ideas. As your teacher, I am interested in **your** ideas, interpretations, and arguments. Your ideas are far more interesting than the ones regurgitated again and again on the internet, and looking at those websites will color your thinking and prevent you from developing your own ideas.