

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

In order to prepare for AP English Language and Composition, it is necessary for you to practice your critical reading and writing skills. The following two assignments are designed to give you a glimpse into the types of skills you will need to be successful in the course. Both Assignment One and Assignment Two need to be completed. Most importantly, each assignment requires you to read, write, and think at an AP-level.

Assignment One: Your first assignment is to expand your world a bit. Part of being in AP English Language and Composition is being a student of the world. For EACH category below, choose what you would like to read, listen to, or watch. Answer the questions for reflection in a separate Google doc. Be mindful of organization, spelling, and punctuation in your responses.

Read Journalism	<p>Read two opinion articles from a major news source. If you go to their website, you will find a category called OPINIONS in the menu. You will see written opinions on all kinds of topics.</p> <p>Pick two to read.</p>	<p><i>In your reflection:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include the title of the piece, the author, and a brief summary. ● What is the author's claim? ● How do they support this claim? ● What did you notice about the writing that was effective or persuasive? ● Do you agree with the writer? Why or why not? Explain.
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<p>Listen to a Podcast</p>	<p>You can access podcasts from Apple, Spotify, or other streaming music services. There are thousands to choose from, but choose one that is “family friendly” and that you can talk about in a classroom setting.</p> <p>Choose one podcast and listen to at least three episodes of it. There is a list of suggested podcasts linked if you need help finding one.</p>	<p><i>In your reflection:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Give the title of the podcast and a brief summary of what your episodes are about. ● Podcasts can’t be boring or they won’t be successful. Producers hire good speakers, provide music, humor, sound effects, and other devices to engage their listeners. What specific choices do the podcast producers make to create an engaging podcast? ● Did you enjoy your episodes? Why or why not? Explain.
<p>Watch a Documentary Film</p>	<p>Google “best documentaries,” and you will get lists of the newest ones and also classic documentaries that have stood the test of time.</p> <p>Choose one full-length (not episodic) documentary you have not seen on a topic you are not especially familiar with and watch it. Documentaries can be found on streaming services or at the local library.</p>	<p><i>In your reflection:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Give the title, network, and brief summary of the film. ● What is the purpose of this film? How do you know? ● What specific choices do filmmakers make in order to convince or inform you of their purpose? ● Did you like the documentary? Why or why not? Explain.

Assignment Two: Narrative nonfiction is a genre that is similar to fiction because it tells a story; however, the details are factual. This genre includes memoirs, biographies, true crime stories, travel narratives and histories. Choose titles from the list below or comparable narrative nonfiction books to read and annotate.

1. Read **ONE** of the books below.
2. As you read, use the AP Language Non Fiction Analysis Chart to take notes. (See next page.) **Complete this chart in google docs for ONE** of the books you have read.
3. Mark each of your quotations in your book with a post-it note.
4. Bring these materials to our first class meeting. This will be used to write your first Rhetorical Analysis. This will be your *first formative grade*, so make sure this is completed before the first day of class.

Book Options:

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

The Arm: Inside the Billion Dollar Mystery of the Most Valuable Commodity in Sports by Jeff Passan

Bad Feminist: Essays by Roxane Gay

Better Off: Flipping the Switch on Technology by Eric Bende

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott

Black Boy by Richard Wright

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell

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

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

The Brontes: Charlotte Bronte and her Family by Rebecca Fraser

Drive by Daniel Pink

Educated by Tara Westover

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steve D. Levitt

Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel

The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth: Popularity, Quirk Theory, and Why Outsiders Thrive After High School by Alexandra Robbins

Ghettoside by Jill Leov

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance

How Soccer Explains the World by Frankin Foer

If This Isn't Nice, What Is? by Kurt Vonnegut

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom by Yeonmi Park

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

Killing Lincoln by Bill O'Reilly

The Knowledge Illusion: Why We Never Think Alone by Steven Soman & Philip Fernbach

Light of the Stars: Alien Worlds and the Fate of the Earth by Adam Frank

Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10 by Marcus Luttrell

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi

A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

Salt by Mark Kurlansky

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand

The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt

Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative by Thomas King
Twelve Years A Slave by Solomon Northup

Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League by Dan-Ei Padilla Peralta

Weaponized Lies: How to Think Critically in the Post-Truth Era by Daniel J. Levitin

We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Where the Past Begins: A Writer's Memoir by Amy Tan

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

AP Language Non Fiction Analysis Chart

Title	
Speaker (Provide detailed information about the author.)	
Subject (What is the author writing about? Think about both the literal and thematic subject.)	
Audience (To whom is the author writing?)	
Context (The setting, place, time, culture, and how these things might affect the big ideas of the book)	
Exigence (What is the author's reason for writing?)	

	Quotation and Page Number (Use MLA in-text citation formatting.)	Commentary
<p>Quotations: Choose ten quotations . Make sure you are choosing quotations from the beginning, middle, and end of this text.</p> <p>To Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Look for sentences in which the author intentionally repeats words to create rhythm and emphasis. ● Look for sentences that are particularly short—five words or fewer. ● Look for sentences that contain contrasts—opposite pairs of words or images. ● Look for sentences that contain lists (also known as series). ● Look for sentences that contain interruptions—between em dashes or parentheses. ● Look for sentences that contain semicolons or colons. ● Look for sentences that contain only concrete diction. ● Look for sentences that contain only abstract diction. <p>Commentary: Explain how the quotations illustrate or connect to the author’s overall purpose.</p>		

