

AP Language and Composition

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To: Students
Re: Summer Assignments
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AP English Language and Composition emphasizes nonfiction writing, close reading, and analysis of nonfiction prose. That means you will need to get used to a “different” kind of English course - one that involves less reading and writing about fiction than you may be used to. While we want you to continue reading important and distinctive fiction, we also require you to begin working with quality nonfiction. That shift begins with AP summer reading and writing.

If you plan on taking AP Language and Composition in the fall, please follow these instructions:

- For the summer assignment, you must either **buy the books or visit a library for copies. Some books are available at the Cony library. Refer to the list later in this document.** While reading actively (annotating when possible) pay particular attention to passages that relate to the story’s theme (individuality, environment, bravery, individualism etc.) or the author’s language that captures important story elements. Write down your thoughts after each quote.
- For **each book**, you must **type ten passages minimum** (paragraphs, sentences, word clusters) **including page numbers.** Your focus should be on effective wording that best capture’s the **author’s writing style** and creates/reinforces important **themes.** Make sure to include a page number of the passage so that I may locate it in the text. **(See further explanation later in this document)**
- Your choices must represent the text of the **entire** novel. Therefore, **passages must come from chapters at the beginning, middle and end of the novel. PAGE NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED. JOURNALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THEM.**
- **NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT WILL JEOPARDIZE YOUR ENROLLMENT IN THIS CLASS!!**

The following books are summer reading possibilities for AP Language and Composition:

You are required to read **two** of the following non-fiction texts:

***Note: the asterisked works below are available in the Cony library. The others you will have to obtain on your own.**

- ****Into Thin Air*** by John Krakauer (a climbing adventure/disaster story on Mt Everest)
- ****A Walk in the Woods*** by Bill Bryson (an entertaining look at hiking the Appalachian Trail)
- ***I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** by Maya Angelou (the author's autobiography of her early years growing up as a black girl in rural Arkansas)
- ***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*** by Dee Brown (a history of the decline and fall of Native American tribes during the time of this country's expansion)
- ***The Things They Carried*** by Tim O'Brien (Graphic Viet Nam War-era soldier experiences)

Although the English Department may have some books available for you, we urge you to obtain your own copies so that you may annotate as you read.

Writing: There are two writing assignments to accompany the summer reading.

1. **Reading Response Journal.** **For each book you read,** you must keep a Response Journal. Please refer to the next page for instructions on how to go about doing this.

Grades for the responses are based on the quality of the entries. A minimum of ten entries per book is required; however I highly recommend going beyond this minimum requirement since you will be asked to address a writing prompt in which you must integrate direct quotes from your reading. Response Journals are due **no later than the first time we meet as a class in the fall of 2017.** Ideally, you should submit each journal electronically via Google Docs and share it with me. Refer to my contact information at the beginning of this handout.

2. An in-class essay will be assigned over one of the two books you have read over the course of the summer on the first full class day.

(see next page for Response Journal Directions and Tips)

Reader-Response Journal Directions

As you read a book, you should try to keep track of significant themes, issues, and conflicts which emerge. In doing so, you are building a foundation which to predicate discussion and a written analysis of the novel upon. In the college setting where time is at a premium, students often annotate texts they have purchased during the reading process so that they can refer to passages again quickly. If, however, you cannot write in the novel you are reading (i.e. it is a library book), set up the following note sheet and record your observations on it as you read.

Note: those of you who are annotating a personal copy must create an observation sheet indexed with the annotations you have made.

Remember....you will need to make a minimum of ten observations per each book.

Quote and/or passage summary *(include page #)	Your commentary (why is this a significant quote and/or passage?)
<p>Set up a sheet of paper with these columns and then fold the paper so that you can use it as a bookmark. That way you will have it handy when you run across something worth noting.</p> <p>*PAGE NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED. WITHOUT THEM I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR WORK!</p>	<p>Consider the following when examining a quote and/or passage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-thematic concern(s)-characterization-literary quality (i.e. <i>how</i> is the author attempting to bring his or her story to life?)-historical references/allusions-moments when you are surprised/shocked/offended/amused