

AP Language and Composition

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To: Students
Re: Summer Assignments

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:

There are two components to the summer assignment. The first one is described below and can be completed at any time during the summer. If you complete this project, you may email your work to me during the summer. The Second component is a separate assignment stated in the AP Google classroom

Project One: Book Reading

- For the summer assignment, you are required to read the book *And Still We Rise* by Miles Corwin. **There are copies of this available to you to pick up either through me (room 125) or there are copies available in the guidance office.** 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.
- **NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT WILL JEOPARDIZE YOUR ENROLLMENT IN THIS CLASS!!**

The English Department has books available for you. You, of course, may purchase a copy of your own, if you so choose.

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

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

Grades for the responses are based on the quality of the entries. Response Journals are due **no later than the first time we meet as a class in the fall of 2021.** **Check the date posted on Google Classroom under Assignments.** Ideally, you should submit the journal electronically via Google Classroom and share it with me. However, I will accept hand-written journals, as well.

2. An in-class essay will be assigned in the first two weeks of class.

Response Journal Directions and Tips

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 book 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 6 observations per each part (the book is broken down into 4 parts, so you should have a running total of 24 entries minimum.

Please review the following information that details how to set up the journal. Remember that page numbers are a must. I cannot accept the journal without accurate page numbers reported!

PLEASE GO TO NEXT PAGE TO REVIEW THE JOURNAL SETUP

| 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>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 |

The best way to think about preparing the journal entries is as follows: as you read, when you decide on a specific quote out of a passage you are reading, think about *why you wanted to comment on this piece*. I want you to help me understand your thinking here. Don't just summarize what is happening at this moment in the book.