

Ms. Sullivan
AP English Language and Composition/Summer Reading
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Welcome to AP English Language and Composition!

Before your year begins, it is necessary to explain expectations for your work, attitude, and comportment as AP scholars. You are obviously the best English students; otherwise, you would not have chosen the rigorous coursework this class demands. You are expected to be dedicated and self-disciplined, teachable and self-motivated. Although one of the ultimate goals is that you pass the exam (which is EXPECTED and highly recommended), it would be great for each of you to enjoy the process. Being smart is fun, but often requires hard work.

One of the keys to performing well is being “well read.” As you read more widely, your vocabulary becomes broader and richer. Exposure to a variety of literature will allow you to recognize good writing styles and to emulate their correctness in your own writings. Another key to performing well is developing a writing style which incorporates depth of thinking in analysis of a writer’s techniques, methods, style, and presenting intelligent papers about such concepts. A final key to passing the exam is understanding argument and using research to back up your argument. Although you will do projects, the focus must be on content, purpose, and writing.

When you read, keep a dictionary close in order to define any words that you find unfamiliar; write these down for future reference. Be sure to use the pronunciation guides; all too often people sound foolish when they mispronounce words or use a word incorrectly. Be aware of the many allusions that authors use for emphasis or for clarity; don’t be afraid to investigate if something is unfamiliar, and, please, don’t expect someone to give you all the answers.

In addition to required class work, you will read novels outside of class, but the primary focus of this course is reading and analyzing nonfiction and the author’s purpose/argument, as well as writing and analyzing the style and purpose of various authors and types of writing.

With a positive attitude and strong work ethic, you will have a successful year in AP English!

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2018

Congratulations on your decision to take the AP Language and Composition class!

If you would like additional information on the Advanced Placement program, go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html> for general information. For more specific information on the English Language & Composition test, go to http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_englang.html?englang. On this page, you can connect with even more specifics about the class and the test.

READING LIST

1. *THEY SAY I SAY: THE MOVES THAT MATTER IN ACADEMIC WRITING* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. Please read in its entirety (including the readings at the end). You should have this available to use as a reference throughout the school year. This book may be purchased through Amazon “used” for pretty cheap. They also may have it at Half Price Books. This book will assist you for the rest of your academic career, so it is money well spent. If all else fails, go to the JOCO Library to check it out.
2. Choose one of the following AP recommended nonfiction books:
 - ☐ *IN COLD BLOOD* by Truman Capote
 - ☐ *THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS* by Rebecca Skloot
 - ☐ *INTO THE WILD* by John Krakauer
 - ☐ *AMAZING GRACE* by Jonathon Kazol
 - ☐ *THE RIGHT STUFF* by Tom Wolfe
 - ☐ *FAST FOOD NATION* by Eric Schlosser
 - ☐ *NICKEL AND DIMED: ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN AMERICA* by Barbara Ehrenreich
 - ☐ *OVERACHIEVERS: THE SECRET LIVES OF DRIVEN KIDS* by Alexandra Robbins
 - ☐ *THERE ARE NO CHILDREN HERE* by Alex Kotlowitz
 - ☐ *KABUL BEAUTY SCHOOL: AN AMERICAN WOMAN GOES BEHIND THE VEIL* by Deborah Rodriguez
 - ☐ *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER* by Stephen Chbosky
 - ☐ *BLACK HAWK DOWN* by Mark Bowden
 - ☐ *SHE SAID YES: THE UNLIKELY MARTYRDOM OF CASSIE BERNALL* by Misty Bernall
 - ☐ *CATCH ME IF YOU CAN* by Frank Abagnale
 - ☐ *THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE: A WAR STORY* by Diane Ackerman
 - ☐ *READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN* by Azar Nafisi
 - ☐ *DRESS YOUR FAMILY IN CORDUROY AND DENIM* by David Sedaris
 - ☐ *HOW STARBUCKS SAVED MY LIFE: A SON OF PRIVILEGE LEARNS TO LIVE*

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE by Michael Gates Gill

- ❑ *ESCAPE* by Carolyn Jessop
- ❑ *BEAUTIFUL BOY: A FATHER'S JOURNEY THROUGH HIS SON'S ADDICTION* by David Sheff
- ❑ *PROZAC NATION* by Elizabeth Wurtzel
- ❑ *SEABISCUIT: AN AMERICAN LEGEND* by Laura Hillenbrand
- ❑ *THE INNOCENT MAN* by John Grisham
- ❑ *THE PERFECT STORM* by Sebastian Junger
- ❑ CHOICE BOOK from the New York Times Best Sellers Hardcover **Nonfiction** or Paperback **Nonfiction** lists (Amazon has these lists on their website...you can also “google” New York Times Best Seller List). The book must be at an appropriate level for your abilities as an AP student and it must be SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. Please remember, this is a college-level course. Therefore, your book selection should be appropriate for a college-level course. **Remember to choose a NONFICTION book!!**

*Because you are asked to read, analyze, explain, and interpret the items we are reading in the course of the year, it is important that you do not substitute Cliffs Notes, Spark Notes, or other summaries or condensations, nor should you rely on the movie versions of the books, since they are often different. The best way to be successful with this assignment, or any other assignment during the next year, is to read the books carefully and thoughtfully. 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 assignments on time. Those students who wait until August to begin the summer reading often cannot give the reading assignment the full concentration it requires.

JOURNALS

As you read, keep a dialectical journal for **each book**. You should write these journals in one notebook. DO NOT TYPE YOUR JOURNALS! These journals will consist of **quotations** to which you respond critically. Journals are due when school starts. Please label and date journals appropriately. This will be due the first day of school.

For the **each book**, select one quotation or passage for approximately every 15 pages. Respond to the quotations, focus on the ways in which the author uses language to create an effect. What is it about the language that stands out and makes the passage distinctive? How does the passage reflect the author's style and reveal larger themes of the work? I expect responses to be developed thoughtfully and intellectually. Responses should be approximately 60 words in length. The dialectical journals should be constructed in the following manner:

Quote

“Write the quote from the book on the left side of the paper with the correct MLA citation” (176).

Response

Your response and analysis of the quote should be written on the opposite side of the page.

For the RESPONSE column, you have several ways to respond to a text.

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text
- Give your personal reactions to the passage
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or a character
- Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences
- Write about what it makes you think or feel Argue with or speak to the character or author

To summarize, you need to do the following this summer due when we return to school:

- read 2 books
- complete your written dialectical journals for both books.
- **Please bring a 1 and ½ - 2 inch 3 ring binder on the first day**

****Presentations and essays for your nonfiction book will be planned when you return in August.**

I am so excited to start a new year with you! I love this class and you will learn so much. Do yourself a big favor: **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF SUMMER TO BEGIN THIS ASSIGNMENT.** And remember...reading is good for you on so many levels. Choose a book you are interested in and enjoy learning something new!

Can't wait to meet you! Have a wonderful summer!

Email me with any questions or concerns at nosulliv@smsd.org

-Ms. Sullivan

