



Howdy, Class of 2023!

Wow, it's hard to believe that next year you will be taking your first "real" AP English class. I applaud you for accepting the challenge of a more rigorous course. Next year will be like no other, not just because it's your first official year of AP English, but because it is a yearfull of nonfiction and argumentation. For much of the year, you will see a focus on the author's argument in non-fiction, a departure from the traditional focus on fiction. The type of writing and thinking that I will challenge you to do is the type that will transcend any English class and better prepare you for college and beyond. My goal is to make you analytical readers who scrutinize, probe, and question texts; more polished writers who articulate with insight and flair; and, most importantly, global citizens who can critically think in almost any situation. Yes, next year should be a year of not only challenges but lifelong experiences.

In order to be prepared for the year, I am inviting you to do a few things over the summer and throughout the year. First, read, read, read. The district sees such an importance to reading that it is a district initiative for success. We recognize reading is a skill, and as with any skill the only way to get better is to continually practice. Just like you practice an instrument or sport, I encourage you to "practice" reading and encourage you to read what you enjoy. Typically speaking, good readers are good writers. Second, read editorial writing. As we will focus on argumentation, editorials are a good source to see argumentation strategies at work. My suggestion is to choose an editorial writer, and read at least one editorial per week. Finally, watch the news. Part of our class will require you to come up with examples to support your arguments. The more you know about the world - past and present - and how one action affects another, the more insightful and intricate your discussion could be.

As a preview, the first thing that we will read is a non-fiction text of your choice from the following list: *The Beauty Myth*, *Nothing to Envy*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*, and *Freakonomics*. If you would like to get ahead, you can begin this reading over the summer; this reading will be due about three weeks after school starts. We encourage you to purchase a copy of your book so that you can annotate in it; however, if you are not able to purchase it, you may access a PDF of the text online. These selections are nonfiction texts, so you should not be looking for examples of literary devices, character development, or an insightful plot. Rather, as you read, annotate looking for the main points/claims the author makes and the evidence he/she uses to back up those claims (facts/data, anecdotal evidence, etc.). Brush off your SPACECAT (especially the P and CAT) knowledge, and annotate for those things as well. Although I do want you to annotate, please don't get bogged down in the annotations. Read to gain knowledge, and annotate to expand that knowledge.

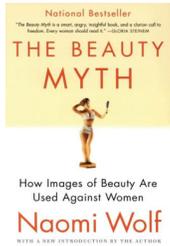
If you have questions about the summer assignment or the class, feel free to email us.
Have a great summer; we look forward to a great year!

Mrs. Lewis (tlewis@aisd.net)

Mrs. Linn (klinn@aisd.net)

Mrs. Tracy (ptracy@aisd.net)

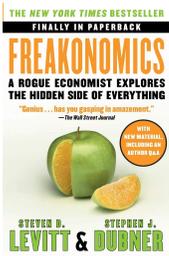
Non-fiction Selections for 1st Six Weeks Choice Text



The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women by Naomi Wolf

ISBN: 9780060512187

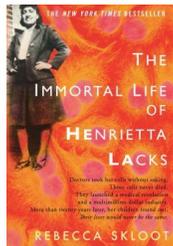
The bestselling classic redefined our view of the relationship between beauty and female identity. In today's world, women have more power, legal recognition, and professional success than ever before. Alongside the evident progress of the women's movement, however, writer and journalist Naomi Wolf is troubled by a different kind of social control, which, she argues, may prove just as restrictive as the traditional image of homemaker and wife. It's the beauty myth, an obsession with physical perfection that traps the modern woman in an endless spiral of hope, self-consciousness, and self-hatred as she tries to fulfill society's impossible definition of "the flawless beauty." (368)



Freakonomics by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

ISBN: 9780063032378

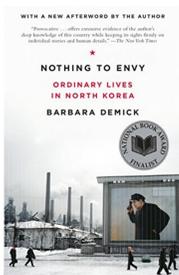
The book is a collection of articles written by Levitt, an expert who had gained a reputation for applying economic theory to diverse subjects not usually covered by "traditional" economists. In *Freakonomics*, Levitt and Dubner argue that economics is, at root, the study of incentives. (352)



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

ISBN: 1400052173

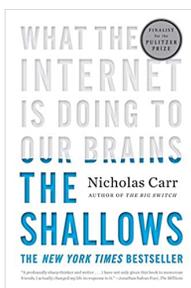
Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. (381)



Nothing to Envy by Barbara Demick

ISBN: 9780385523912

In this landmark addition to the literature of totalitarianism, award-winning journalist Barbara Demick follows the lives of six North Korean citizens over fifteen years—a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il-sung, the rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il (the father of Kim Jong-un), and a devastating famine that killed one-fifth of the population. (336)



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

ISBN: 9780393339758

“Is Google making us stupid?” When Nicholas Carr posed that question, in a celebrated *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, he tapped into a well of anxiety about how the Internet is changing us. He also crystallized one of the most important debates of our time: As we enjoy the Net’s bounties, are we sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply? (304)