

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Dear AP English Language and Composition Student,
Welcome to AP!

We would like to formally welcome you to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. This is a highly rigorous and rewarding course, designed to foster sophisticated reading, writing, and thinking habits. Ultimately, you will be expected and prepared to take the Advanced Placement Examination in English Language and Composition this coming May. We highly recommend you visit the College Board website for more information on the AP tests and programs (www.collegeboard.com/ap/students/index.html).

Seguin's AP Language course, taken your junior year, "engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes" (AP Course Description). The focus is on rhetorical strategies in works of fiction and nonfiction and the intimate connection between writing, reading, speaking, and thinking. As you may anticipate, more is expected from a student of AP than from all other students. You are required to read the following texts before the start of class:

- Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*
- Jay Heinrichs *Thank You for Arguing* (Offense Only)

You will be responsible for obtaining a copy of the selection, though you are not required to buy a copy—you could check one out from the public library or read the full text on the internet—but I recommend that you **get your own copy**, because you will be expected to annotate as you read.

All work is due on the first day of class of the 2019-2020 school year, which will be on August 19, 2019. **We adhere strictly to a no-late work policy, and no extensions are ever given.**

In Cold Blood

Though it is nonfiction, it is also literary. That was, in fact, Capote's aim in launching his investigation into the infamous Clutter murders. Thus—as AP English Language and Composition focuses on nonfiction and what language choices accomplish—this is a fitting book to begin our study.

In short, the summer assignment consists of two components:

Before you read:

- You will want to read the following information on the book and author to get an understanding of the crime and the man before you get into the book itself.
- <http://www.gcpolice.org/about-gcpd/history/famous-cases/clutter-family-murders>
- <http://www.biography.com/people/truman-capote-9237547>

1. You will take a test and write an AP style essay within the first week of school.

Thank You for Arguing

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/thank-you-for-arguing-jay-heinrichs/1103669253?ean=9780307341440>

Thank You for Arguing is, according to the back cover, “your master class in the art of persuasion, taught by professors ranging from Bart Simpson to Winston Churchill.” It takes the classic principles of rhetoric—the very heart of AP English III—and repackages them in ways that are practical, funny, and easy to remember. (The newest printed copy will have a blue cover instead of white, but the material is the same)

- The *Thank You for Arguing* project is designed for you to show you understand the content in the Offense chapters of TYFA (ch 1-13). You will be expected to create a presentation to be shared with us in Google by **August 18, 2019**. The presentation must cover all thirteen (13) chapters with the bolded text topics as well as what the author intended for you to take away from that chapter...what should you have learned from that lesson? This must be in your own words, **I DO NOT** want to see you taking it straight from the book... if that was the case I would be grading the author and not YOU.
- You can expect some type of assessment over the summer readings upon your return.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced-in standard 12 font either Times New Roman or Arial. We expect no less than 12-15 sentences for any question or paragraph. This is standard for our classes going forward throughout the year. No handwritten work will be accepted from anyone for any reason.

Want to do more than read? Your junior year is full of exams, so how about some test prep? In the fall, you will be taking the PSAT and many of you in the spring will probably take the SAT, the ACT and of course, the AP Language exam. Vocabulary and reading comprehension are crucial skills on all these tests, so the wise student would take time over the summer to continue to develop these skills. You should review your vocabulary words from both 9th and 10th grades, and there are PSAT, SAT, and ACT study guides from many bookstores as well as review sites online. We will be reading a large amount of non-fiction literature next school year therefore you should get in the habit of reading newspapers and magazines, especially editorials to keep up with current events.

We are looking forward to meeting you. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail Mrs. Speer at cspeer@aisd.net or Ms. Smith at ssmith22@aisd.net and we will answer you promptly.

Finally, some supplies you will need for this class will be:

- 2-3" Binder
- Blue, green, and yellow highlighters (must be these colors)
- Post-it notes
- #2 pencils- mechanical pencils are not permitted on the AP Exam
- Red and black pens
- Kleenex
- Paper

Have a great summer!

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