



Mrs. Nicolini – cnicolini@heronhighschool.org

HHS 2018-2019

AP Language and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition, a course that is designed to make you a stronger reader, writer, and analyzer! In AP Lang, our main objective is to break down the arguments that authors create (rhetorical analysis), and to create our own arguments using post-secondary sophistication and style (argumentation).

The summer reading and assignments outlined below are designed to lay the foundation for the skills that you will acquire and hone throughout the school year in AP Lang. Therefore, it is imperative that you complete all summer reading and assignments with intentionality and care.

Required reading (4 novels):

All AP Lang students are expected to read the following:

1. *How to be a High School Superstar* by Cal Newport
2. *Why We Can't Wait* by Martin Luther King Jr
3. *Passing* Nella Larsen

3. In addition, AP Lang students should **choose one** of the following novels for their 4th summer read

- *John Adams* by David McCullough
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
- *The House of Sky* by Ivan Doig
- *Death be not Proud* by John J. Gunther
- *The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman
- *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

Required Reading Tasks: As you complete your summer reading list, you will need to complete the following assignments prior to the first day of school.

1. How to be a High School Superstar Argumentative Response

45 mastery points

As you move through Newport's novel, use a critical eye to identify and annotate the main arguments that he outlines in his novel. Once you have finished the novel, go back and review your annotations and notes. Choose 3 separate passages that reflect a main argument or assertion from Newport's book (each selected passage should be focused on a different assertion). For each selected passage write a three paragraph responses that agrees, disagrees or qualifies Newport's ideas. Use evidence

from your own experience, history, literature, or current events to support your position.

Your responses should be:

- Typed
- Double spaced
- 12 point font
- Appropriately cited –use MLA format (Consult Purdue OWL website for formatting specifics)

2. Why We Can't Wait Double Entry Journal

30 practice points

Guidelines:

A double-entry journal is a two column chart. The left hand column contains quotes you have identified as particularly significant, interesting, or revealing to you as well as a brief discussion of the quotation's context; the right hand column is your reflection and/or commentary over those quotes.

- Your journal entries should be typed, neatly, using 12 point font and appropriate MLA citations for all quotes.
- Your journal entries should demonstrate that you are engaged with the **entire text** –quotes will come from the beginning, middle, and end of the text.

The following includes ideas to discuss in the right hand column:

- The author's authority and credibility on the topic
- The author's thesis and/or purpose:
 - Make a note of the central argument of the novel, and track it as it develops through the text
 - You may want to include your response to the central argument
- The author's tone
 - How might he/she employ a specific tone to serve his/her purpose?
- The author's intended audience
 - Who are the targeted readers? How does the author tailor his/her argument to suit the intended audience?
- The author's rhetorical choices/style
 - How does the author leverage rhetorical devices to develop and further their argument with the audience?
 - Which rhetorical choices does the author use often, what's the extent of their effectiveness?
- Specific, targeted questions over concepts, ideas, explanations, etc. in the text.

Sample Journal

Evidence	Commentary & Reflection
<p>Quotation: "I think we are innately suspicious of this kind of rapid decision making. We live in a world that assumes the quality of a decision is directly related to the time and effort that went into making it" (Gladwell 13).</p> <p>Context: Malcolm Gladwell is discussing how people often believe the best decisions are made after deep thought and consideration.</p>	<p>Gladwell's juxtaposition of split-second decisions and the common assertion that society correlates quality with time and effort, shows the reader how deeply instinctual decisions are often wrongly criticized. This particular passage forces the reader to consider their own decision making processes, while consequently building intrigue around Gladwell's claim that split-second decisions can be more intuitive and beneficial than the best-considered plans.</p>
<p>Quotation: Thin slicing is not an exotic gift. It is a central part of what it means to be human. We thin-slice whenever we meet a new person, or have to make sense of something quickly or encounter a novel situation. We thin slice because we have to, and we come to rely on that ability because there are lots of hidden fists out there, lots of situations where careful attention to the details of a very thin slice, even for no more than second or two, can tell us an awful lot. (44-45)</p>	<p>Here, Gladwell uses carefully crafted syntax to build up to the conclusion that thin-slicing is an important survival skill humans have developed over the course of our existence. By starting with a short, impactful sentence, and building up to a long, flowing explanations, Gladwell hooks his reader and then expounds the importance of this skill. By using a conversational tone and accessible diction, Gladwell is able to connect to the reader on an informal level</p>

Context: Gladwell is discussing how humans have evolved to make decisions based on minute observations, and how those decisions can protect us in surprising situations.	while still emphasizing the importance of his argument.
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3. Student *Passing* or Choice Novel Thematic Recitation

25 mastery points

After you have finished your novel, choose three meaningful quotations from the text. Each quotation should embody the essential idea in the text, and they should all **thematically connect.**

Be prepared:

- ✓ Introduce yourself to the class
- ✓ To give a brief synopsis of your chosen novel's theme
- ✓ To recite each quotation from memory during the first week of school.
 - The recitation must be filled with emotion and inflection--become one with text and demonstrate a clear understanding of the tone, mood, and intended effect of your selection.
 - This should be done in a professional manner according to best practices in platform presentation skills--(no giggling, hair twirling, swaying, fidgeting, etc.)
 - Avoid "filler words": um...uh...like (it is totally acceptable to take a few breathes or a moment of silence to collect your thoughts)