



AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2019

This summer, **you will be reading a book and a series of articles.** You will need to get a copy of the book, and the articles will be posted in the Canvas course titled “AP English Lang & Comp Summer Work 2019” with prompts for responses due throughout the summer (if you haven’t been added to this Canvas class, email me at mollyesposito@dvrhs.org and I will add you). Read on for more info!

NONFICTION BOOK

Choose ONE of the following to read:

- *American Prison: A Reporter’s Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment*, Shane Bauer
- *Educated*, Tara Westover
- *I’ll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman’s Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer*, Michelle McNamara
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot
- *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border*, Francisco Cantú
- *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell

All books are available for purchase through various online outlets, and most bookstores should have them as well (buy local if possible!!). You should annotate and reflect on the book as you read it, and come to class in August prepared to discuss and write about it. The use of a borrowed copy (e.g. library book), or an eBook/digital text, is permitted – however, you should then take *handwritten* notes in a separate notebook, recording page numbers as you do so. It will definitely be to your advantage to have a copy of the book in hand at the beginning of the next school year. Let me know if you need help acquiring one of the books for the assignment.

ARTICLES AND RESPONSES

The articles and prompts will be available on the Canvas website. You will read and respond to three (3) articles that I will post for you over the course of the summer.

Due dates for responses are July 12, August 2, and August 23.

Articles & prompts will be posted on the **Canvas course “AP English Lang & Comp Summer Work 2019”** at least two weeks prior to the due dates. Responses must be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 PM on the posted due dates.

To a degree, your ability to succeed in this course and on the AP English Language Exam is dependent on your knowledge and understanding of current issues and events – **you need to “Know Stuff.”** You should begin this summer, and continue throughout the year (and hopefully beyond), to read frequently and widely about current events, local, national, and international news, as well as topics of interest in other fields.

WRITTEN COMPONENT: BOOK & ARTICLES

1) Annotate the books and articles as you read. The joy of summer reading is that the book is *yours* and therefore you can underline and write marginalia to your heart’s content. The notes you make in the margins of books can aid in retention of information and comprehension - and they also serve as a conversation between you and the text. You may underline memorable lines, write key words in blank spaces, jot important page numbers inside of the back cover, or pose questions/connections about points, characters, or moves the author makes in his/her argument. This does not mean you should scrawl all over every page to prove you have read (I won’t even be checking the annotations), but selective annotating is HUGELY useful to readers and will help with the rest of the written

assignment – and you will be able to use your annotations/notes when you write your summer reading essay when we return in August IN CLASS.

2) Rhetorical Précis. Students will complete a rhetorical précis for their chosen book. A précis, like the ones you've done for Mrs. Civitillo, discuss both what a text is arguing (what it says) as well as the way it constructs/creates the argument (how it says it). Yours should contain the following four parts:

- **Sentence One:** Name of author, genre, and title of work; a rhetorically active verb; and a THAT clause containing the major assertion or thesis in the text.
- **Sentence Two:** An explanation of how the author develops and supports the thesis.
- **Sentence Three:** A statement of the author's apparent purpose, followed by an "in order to" phrase.
- **Sentence Four:** A description of the intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes with the audience.

See Canvas for a handout with more details on how to complete the rhetorical précis. It should be submitted to Canvas along with the quotation analyses (see below).

3) Quotations. You will select and analyze **five quotes from your chosen book**, including page numbers, making sure they represent the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Consult your annotations to select your final quotes. You can select a quotation because it raises an important point in the writer's argument, asks or brings up a serious question for you as the reader, illustrates a fault or weakness you find in the argument, or because you simply like the way it is written.

Copy the quote into a Word or Pages document and then briefly reflect on it (you do not need to answer each of the following, these are just suggestions): Why did you choose it? Why is it significant? How does it fit into the overall work? What related issue does it make you consider? Did it provoke an immediate response? If so, what and why? Are there any qualities of the diction, syntax, tone, or style of writing that caught your attention? **Each reflection should be about 8-10 sentences in length – that is a minimum AND a MAXIMUM.**

These quote analyses, when completed, will be submitted to Canvas in the same document as the rhetorical précis.

4) The articles, which will be posted on Canvas, will be accompanied by a prompt. You will respond to that prompt for each article, and these responses will be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 PM on the posted due dates (**July 12, August 2, and August 23**).

To review:

- Over the summer, you will read and respond to three articles and prompts I post on Canvas, with due dates of **July 12, August 2, and August 23**. Responses should be uploaded to the "AP English Lang & Comp Summer Work 2019" Canvas course.
- On the first day of school in August, you will turn in the rhetorical précis and five (5) quotes and your analysis of them from your chosen nonfiction book. This can be submitted to the Canvas course any time, but the deadline will be the first day of class in August.
- You should be prepared for a written assessment on your chosen book shortly after we return from break.

I hope you enjoy the readings and your summers! This assignment is not meant (solely) as torture ☺ -- it is also designed to help you focus on the content and engage with what you are reading *as you are reading it*.

I will be around and checking email regularly over the break, so if you have any questions, problems, or concerns, feel free to contact me: [**mollyesposito@dvrhs.org**](mailto:mollyesposito@dvrhs.org)

Happy reading!