

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment Part 1: Political Speeches

First, print, read, and annotated each of the following speeches. If necessary, feel free to research contextual information that may provide insight into the speakers' words and purposes. Watch any accompanying video if it helps guide your comprehension of the speech.

- FDR's First Inaugural Address: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrfirstinaugural.html>
- Eisenhower's Farewell Address:
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/dwightdeisenhowerfarewell.html>
- JFK's Inaugural Address: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/jfkinaugural.htm>
- Obama's 1st Inaugural Address:
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barackobama/barackobamainauguraladdress.htm>
- Trump's 1st Inaugural Address:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/the-inaugural-address/>

Next, write an analytical essay that compares and contrasts two speeches based on their effectiveness. The following definition of "analysis" will be a useful guide for how to think about these texts and how to craft your essay.

"[A]nalysis is an examination of how a text persuades us of its point of view. It focuses on identifying and investigating the way a text communicates, what strategies it employs to connect to an audience, frame an issue, establish its stakes, make a particular claim, support it, and persuade the audience to accept the claim. It is not, as we have noted, an analysis of what a text says but of what strategies it uses to communicate effectively. You must, of course, begin your analysis with what the text says—its argument—but the work of the essay is to show how the text persuades us of its position. You might think of the piece you choose to analyze as a particular kind of engine whose machinations produce particular results. An analysis of the engine examines all the parts, how they work in isolation, together, etc. to see how the engine does what it does, or makes what it makes." --from Stanford Professor Jonah G. Willihnganz

Consider the following questions as you craft your essay:

- What is the context for each speech?
- How do the speakers present themselves?
- How do the speakers engage with their intended audience(s)?
- How do the speakers approach their topic? What is their purpose with the speech?
- What strategies do the speakers use to persuade their audiences?
- Ultimately, which speech do you think is more persuasive and effective? Why?

Essay Requirements:

- Due the first day of class.
- Bring a paper copy!
- Between 3-4 pages
- Typed, double spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman font. Follow MLA format guidelines
- Quotations should use proper MLA format and should be properly blended w/ your commentary
- Aim for commentary (educated interpretation) rather than plot summary
- Include a Works Cited page according to MLA format
 - To save paper, just skip a few lines at the end of your essay and include your works cited entry

Summer Reading Assignment Part 2: *The Elements of Style*

Read *The Elements of Style* ([4th edition](#)) by William Strunk and E.B. White--the entire thing, cover to cover, including the forward and introduction.

As you read, take extensive notes on the authors' various rules and advice for writing. Annotate the text as you read--marking important pages, asking questions where you find confusion, and highlighting key passages.

In a word processing application, answer the following questions and/or respond to the following prompts:

1. Section I: Elementary Rules of Usage

- List 3 rules from this section where you feel your writing needs the most improvement
- What did you learn from these 3 rules?
- How do you plan to implement these rules into your writing?

2. Section II: Elementary Principles of Composition

- What are the 3 most important principles you took from this section?
- Based on these principals, where do you feel your writing needs the most improvement?
- How do you plan to implement these principles into your writing?

3. Section V: An Approach to Style

- Closely read pages 66-69. What is Strunk and White's thesis (or main argumentative point) about writing "style"?
- How would you describe your writing "style"? Do you have one? If not, how do you write?
- What are the 3 most important or helpful reminders you took from this section?
- Based on these reminders about style, where do you feel your writing needs the most improvement?
- How do you plan to implement these tips into your writing?

4. Revision Checklist

- On a new page, compose a "Revision Checklist" based on what you learned in this book
- Your checklist can be more of a "bullet point" outline, but you must include AT LEAST FIVE different checklist points.
- Consider this question in composing your checklist: What are the essential rules/principles/tips you should keep in mind when performing a writing task?
- Feel free to put these checklist points into your own words; you don't have to replicate Strunk and White's ideas.

Assignment Requirements:

- Due the first day of class
- Bring a paper copy!
- Typed, double spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman font. Follow MLA format guidelines
- All responses are TYPED and ORGANIZED w/ the proper heading for each set of questions
- All responses are grammatically fluid, clear, and logical
- While these questions are personal, your writing should reflect careful thought and revision

*****For both assignments, ALL WORK IS YOUR OWN. Consult no outside sources other than the assigned texts. Essays or responses that plagiarize will receive a ZERO, and you will be subject to punishment from the Dean of Students.**