

Welcome to AP Language and Composition, otherwise known as “Lang.” This summer you will read excerpts from Toni Morrison’s new collection of essays entitled *The Source of Self-Regard*. Along the way, you’ll be (re)introduced to Morrison’s primary concerns—the role of art and the artist, literary criticism, African-American thought, feminism, and race—but also to some of the underlying principles of Lang, namely: argument and persuasion.

The book is a bit pricey, so I encourage you to save money if you want: wait for the paperback, check your local library, share a copy with a friend, get the Kindle version, etc. Below you will find the reading assignment and some of the things I would like for you to concentrate on. If you find the reading challenging, then you are doing something right. It should be challenging. This class is challenging. There will be readings during the school year that are far more challenging than this. But fun too!

READ: pp. 3-66; 86-112; 229-279; and 296-350.

Here is the amazon link for the book:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0525521038/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_hsch_vamf_taft_p1_i2

AP Lang is comprised of three main foci of study: argument, rhetoric, and synthesis.

Argument: synonyms are “main point,” “claim,” “thesis,” and “assertion.” An argument is a bold statement that represents an urgent belief. In order for this belief to manifest itself, the believer must engage with other believers and demonstrate its truth through 1) supporting evidence grounded in fact, and 2) rhetorical skill (the means you use to persuade). An argument can be spoken, sculpted, notated, danced, painted, filmed, or performed. In AP Language and Composition, our arguments are most often *composed*.

*Using one sentence for each, identify **three** separate arguments Morrison puts forward.

Rhetoric: all of the tools you come across that enable you to be more persuasive. Much of the time, but not always, effective rhetoric is separate from truth; it is rather associated with tone, style, posture, diction (what Lang peeps call word choice), devices, figures, humor, fearmongering, lying, and so on.

*Identify **three** spots where you find Morrison to be very persuasive. Describe, to the best of your ability, *why* these spots are particularly persuasive.

Synthesis: the mental process whereby seemingly disparate things, ideas, notions, descriptions, and thoughts associate with each other to create concepts.

Ex. My desk is uncomfortable. The classroom walls are bland. I’m bored. This class lasts so long. We never learn anything. I wanna lowkey ditch this class but highkey don’t wanna get in trouble.

Synthesize these together and you pick your concept: *alienation, institutionalization, discipline*.

*Draw **three** connections between disparate essays in Morrison’s book. Describe, to the best of your ability, why you made these connections. How else can you characterize these connections?

Your answers should be typed out and should not exceed one page. Bring this sheet to the first day of Lang. We’ll do a short writing assignment the first day of class based on the summer reading, I’m looking forward to learning with you. Happy reading! Peace.