

## AP Language and Composition

Mr. Kern

2021-2022

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! Before your year begins, it is necessary to explain expectations for your work, attitude, and comportment (lesson one: always look up unfamiliar words) as AP scholars, especially if this is your first *college* class. You are expected to be dedicated and self-disciplined, teachable and self-motivated. Although one of the ultimate goals is that you pass the exam, it would be great for each of you to enjoy the process. Being smart is fun, but often requires hard work. One of the keys to performing well is being “well read.” As you read more widely, your vocabulary becomes broader and richer. Exposure to a variety of literature will allow you to recognize good writing styles and to emulate their correctness in your own writings. Another key to performing well is developing a writing style which incorporates depth of thinking and analysis of a writer’s techniques, methods, style, and presenting intelligent papers about such concepts. A final key to passing the exam is understanding argument and using research to back up your argument. Although you will do projects, the focus must always be on content, purpose, and writing. Don’t expect someone to give you all the answers. With a positive attitude and strong work ethic, you will have a successful year in Junior AP English! With this in mind, here are the summer requirements.

1. Join Mr. Kern’s Google classroom: 3asajan. A copy of all of the summer readings, assignments, and resources will be posted here and I will also send periodic reminders about getting your work done.
2. This summer, you will read a non-fiction book specifically for this class. You will also work in your journal, write a report (not an essay), and create a “book box” to share with the class on Flipgrid. Choose your book from the AP recommended list below:

### ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH ISSUES (love discussing green issues?)

*Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America* Thomas L.

Friedman- Explores the decline of our planet because of global warming and overcrowding and offers solutions to the downward trend.

*The World Without Us* Alan Weisman- A simple concept of imagining the Earth without human beings offers an intriguing way to explore our impact on the planet

### SCIENCE / MEDICINE (Especially appealing if you are science-oriented)

*Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon’s Journey into the Afterlife* Eben Alexander Dr. Alexander’s story of an illness and a near-death experience that changed this skeptic’s philosophy of health

*The Hidden Life of Trees* Peter Wohlleben- The surprising moving research and characterization of trees as social beings.

*Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness* Susannah Cahalan A twenty-two-year-old reporter’s memoir of suffering from a rare brain disease that opened research in the medical community

*Surgeon!: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Doctor* Dr. Richard Caleel A must-read for anyone interested in the medical profession

*The Emperor of All Maladies* Siddhartha Mukherjee The “biography” of cancer and its treatment for over a thousand years.

*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales* Oliver Sacks Recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders

#### GENERAL NONFICTION (quite a variety here)

*Power Plays: Politics, Football, and Other Blood Sports* John M. Barry An examination of the causes and effects of the pursuit of power in the arenas of the media, politics, and even college football. Award-winning and NYT Bestselling author.

*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* Susan Cain Real-life examples that could change the way we see quiet members of our society

*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* Barbara Ehrenreich One woman's story of attempting to survive on minimum wage

*How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization* Franklin Foer A surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between.

*Give and Take: A Revolutionary Approach to Success* Adam M. Grant Instead of focusing on the qualities of the successful, this book investigates relationships and networking's influence on a person's success.

*unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation* Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson Guide to seeing through 21st century media spin by the founders of FactCheck.org

*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* OR *Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance* Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner Intriguing, easily readable explorations of data that answer questions like "Why do drug dealers live with their moms?" and "Do parents really matter?" The second volume asks new questions, such as "Are people hardwired for altruism or selfishness?"

*Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* James W. Loewen One history professor's attempt to correct mistakes and misconceptions he found in several high school American history textbooks. Winner of American Book Award.

*Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* Neil Postman An investigation of the television's effect on American culture

*The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* Alexandra Robbins An exploration of how our current educational climate of high-stakes testing and pressure to achieve affects students

*A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* Ron Suskind A young man's journey from the slums of DC to Brown University.

*I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb Memoir of Miss Upton's hero, a young Pakistani girl who was an activist for girls' education and became an enemy on the Taliban's hit list.

#### HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS (war, biographies, history)

*Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* Reza Aslan Detailed, thoroughly-researched biography that "challenges long-held assumptions"

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* Ishmael Beah One young man's experience as a child soldier during wars in Africa's Sierra Leone.

*One Summer: America, 1927* Bill Bryson Account of an eventful season that includes Babe Ruth, Al Capone, Charles Lindbergh, and Calvin Coolidge

*Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler's Sentence of Death in August 1944* Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre Dramatic story of the liberation of Paris. Exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written

*Man's Search for Meaning* Viktor E. Frankel Psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages. Listed in a Library of Congress survey as among top ten books that made a difference in people's lives.

Any nonfiction account (*The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism; Team of Rivals; The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln; No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt; Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream; The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga*) from Doris Kearns. Goodwin Pulitzer-prize winning author writes in-depth biographies of some of the most influential figures of 20th century

*Seabiscuit* Laura Hillenbrand Unforgettable true account of determination and the indomitable human spirit

Any biography (*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House; Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power; Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship; American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*) from Jon Meacham. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and editor of Newsweek magazine writes award-winning, in-depth studies.

TRUE CRIME (America is enamored with true crime stories)

*Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders* Vincent Bugliosi Written by the lead prosecuting attorney, this book recounts the horrific crimes committed by Charles Manson and four of his followers

*In Cold Blood* Truman Capote The first nonfiction novel. Reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, the story of the lives and deaths of these six people, the victims, and the murderers.

*Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb* Bernard Lefkowitz Account of 1989 rape of a mentally retarded girl by members of a NJ high school football team. Several parallels to like crimes in recent years, including those in Steubenville, Ohio.

*A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption* Dina Temple-Raston Explores the aftermath of the 1998 killing of James Byrd, Jr., a black man who was chained and dragged along a country road by three white males.

ISSUES OF RACE (these are not easy reads. The contents are as painful as America's track record on race and will challenge many of your ideas. If you read one of the following books, your summer assignment will be slightly different and I will be available to talk with you throughout the summer. The Classroom will have more details.)

*Locking Up Our Own* James Forman- Former public defender James Forman, Jr. is a leading critic of mass incarceration and its disproportionate impact on people of color. In *Locking Up Our Own*, he seeks to understand the war on crime that began in the 1970s and why it was supported by many African American leaders in the nation's urban centers.

*How to Be an AntiRacist* Dr. Ibram X. Kendi- Dr. Ibram X. Kendi is regarded as one of the nation’s foremost scholars on racism and anti-racism. Kendi is the author of a number of books and recently announced that he is leaving American University to join the faculty at Boston University. In this book, Kendi shares elements of his own personal story with racism and addresses what it means for people to transition from being racist to anti-racist. In exploring these notions, he offers compelling ideas about concrete actions that must be taken to create a society that does not profit and benefit by exploiting Black peoples and communities. He draws in powerful metaphors about the similarities between cancer and the mistreatment of Black people in American society

*Between the World and Me* Ta-Nahisi Cotes- In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

*White Fragility* Robin DiAngelo- In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning* Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds- Some Americans insist that we're living in a post-racial society. But racist thought is not just alive and well in America--it is more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. And as award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues, racist ideas have a long and lingering history, one in which nearly every great American thinker is complicit. In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. *He* uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis.

3. The assignments for the books are as follows:

- a. **The journal:** When you read your chosen book, you will keep a **digital** journal that is due on the first day of class. As you read, you will create an entry in your journal. Remember that you have been completing journals for 2 years and you know what a good journal is. As a reminder, a good journal:
  - i. Is complete. Meaning you have finished discussing your thoughts. Don’t stop arbitrarily if you think it is “long enough.” As a rule, most entries will tend to be about 10 sentences.
  - ii. Follows the “T” format. Chapter/section across the top. Carefully selected quote on the left. Page number(s) in center. Response on the right. Inserting a table is the easiest way to format this.
  - iii. Avoids summarizing. Although it is appropriate to mention what you just read, you do not need to spend the entire journal entry summarizing the chapter you read. Instead, you can briefly refer

to what you read and spend the rest of the time analyzing and responding to what you read. If you read the requirements below for the report, you will find that by focusing on what you write about in the journals, you will be able to use your journals to write your report.

- iv. Covers the entire book. Some books are split into sections. Some books are split into chapters. Some are a single chapter. You decide how many journals you need to write. Stop and write a journal when you feel like you have something to say. For most books, you will find that 15-20 journal entries are plenty.

b. **The report:** When you are finished reading, you will write a report. A report is not an essay. The report consists of the following sections. The sections must be numbered. Watch the word count suggestions for each section. The report will be submitted to Turnitin.com on the first day of class.

1. A summation of the book. Discuss what the book is generally about without going into any of your own analysis. (~300 words)
2. Share two memorable quotes, passages, sentences, or fragments that capture the essence of your book. Discuss the significance. (~200 words of analysis per quote)
3. How was your book organized? Explain how and then also explain why you think the author may have made those choices to organize it this way (~150 words)
4. Explain what the literary critics have said: Sum up the opinion of two different critics regarding their analysis of the book. Use reputable sources: New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the literary database through our library, etc. (~150 words each critic)
5. Discuss the audience for this book? Who was it written for? Who would read it? Who would enjoy it? (~150 words)
6. Your personal take on the book. Did you enjoy the book? What are the book's strengths, weaknesses, and/or lingering questions? Does this book relate to other books you have read? What insights into humanity does this book explore or reveal? Do you think this book will have a lasting imprint on you? (~300 words)
7. Make an argument why your book is important to read (~200 words).

c. **The book box:** A book box is a type of container that is designed to represent your novel. The book box contains the following elements:

1. A shoebox (or similar sized box) neatly decorated on the outside to symbolize your book.
2. The outside must contain your name, the title and author of your book, and a quote that signifies something important about your book.
3. The inside must contain FIVE items you have carefully selected to help explain the book to your classmates in an interesting way. Only ONE of the items can be printed on paper.
4. An oral presentation to the class in which you explain the outside of your box and the five items. The oral presentation will be on Flipgrid, but the due date isn't until after school starts so we can have a practice Flipgrid assignment first. There will be specific instructions once the school year begins.
5. The boxes will be brought in for judging after the video presentation is due.

4. If you have questions this summer, you may email Mr. Kern directly. These summer assignments should take around 30-35 hours to complete. Plan accordingly. You will enter class on the first day and turn in your journals and the report.