

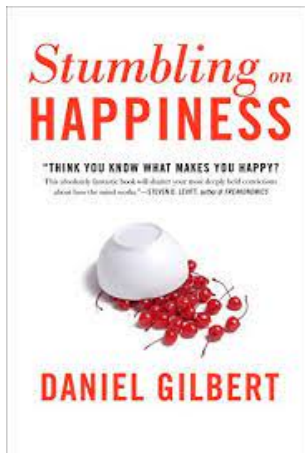
## AP English Language and Composition

### Summer Assignment - 2021-2022

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! This course will require significant amounts of reading and writing—as its name suggests—to prepare you for the AP English Language and Composition test by the second week of May. Because this course will involve writing in different genres and analyzing writers’ stylistic and rhetorical choices, I would like you to immediately engage in both of these activities by writing a review of two texts:

- *Stumbling on Happiness* by Daniel Gilbert.
- *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly.

I have chosen these texts because they are works of non-fiction, which is the focus of the AP Language exam. They are also very different. The former presents arguments about the science of what makes us happy (and who doesn’t want to know how to be happy?). The latter is, frankly, an inspiring tale, more of a narrative. Here are the expectations for the assessment:



❑ The first draft of your review will be due the first Monday of school. You may ask questions about it in class before it is due. If you have any questions before school begins, feel free to email me at [cory.olcott@saintjosephprep.org](mailto:cory.olcott@saintjosephprep.org).

❑ Your review should be 4-5 pages in MLA format. If you have questions about MLA format, see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/>.

❑ REMEMBER: A review is NOT merely an analysis or a personal reaction; it will include those elements, but its primary purpose is to make a judgment about the text’s quality. In other words, you must try to persuade your audience to agree with your positive, negative, or mixed assessment of the texts.

❑ This is NOT a five-paragraph essay! Your first paragraph should include at least the titles, authors, and genres of the texts you are reviewing, as well as your general impression of the texts. You can begin your review with a connection to life or another text, your immediate reaction to finishing or starting the texts, a philosophical or moral point that you will develop more in your review, or another strategy to draw in your reader. For models of reviews, read the movie and book reviews of the *Boston Sunday Globe* or other major newspapers.

- ❑ Your second paragraph should be a BRIEF summary of the texts. This summary should be less than a page.
- ❑ The bulk of your review should explain why you had a positive, negative, or mixed assessment of the texts. Consider addressing any or all of the following questions:
  - ❑ Are the texts' arguments convincing?
  - ❑ Are they correct?
  - ❑ Are the authors' writing styles engaging, boring, lucid, or confusing?
  - ❑ Does the text deepen your appreciation or understanding of your own perspective?
- ❑ In addressing these questions, be sure to back up your judgments with specific examples from the texts.
- ❑ End your review strongly, reconnecting to a previous important point or using another strategy to persuade your audience of the texts' quality or lack thereof. Once again, reviews in newspapers can be helpful models for this.
- ❑ The final draft of this assignment will be worth 50 points. Every day it is late, it will drop a letter grade.

