

**Advanced Placement Language & Composition**  
**SUMMER 2025 READING ASSIGNMENT**  
**\*prepare for '25-'26 school year**  
**Staples High School**

**Texts:**

*Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania* by Frank Bruni

Individual Portfolio

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**Assignment 1**

*Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be* ( ISBN 978-1455532681)

**You can check out the Bruni text from the Staples library before the end of the year**

*OR you can purchase your own copy using the ISBN above*

Optional background info: Biography, Frank Bruni:

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/dining/bruni-bio.html>

Bruni's title allows us to infer the claim of the book. Before you read, start by creating a sentence that captures this claim. You may revise this sentence as you read.

Read the entire book; this includes the Introduction and the Afterword.

For *any* 3 chapters AND either the Introduction OR Afterword, make notes:

- How does this chapter relate to or develop the claim suggested in the title?
- Briefly outline the reasoning and supporting evidence in the chapter. This does not need to be in complete sentences and should not include quotations; your outlines should be no more than a page per chapter;
  - by "reasoning," we mean the "because" idea in the claim
- Identify one (or more) craft choices/style moves you see Bruni making.

*Your notes should be no longer than one page per chapter.*

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## Assignment 2

### *Independent Portfolio*

One key to your success in this course will be your ability to analyze rhetoric and compose arguments using your knowledge of historical and current events and your sensitivity to the nuances of specific cultural contexts.

In order to develop this knowledge base and skill set, it is essential that you engage in regular independent reading and analysis. For the second part of your summer assignment, you will select, read, and respond to six texts that meet the following criteria:

- **One** 2025 commencement speech
- **One** eulogy (*not* an obituary)
- **Two** current (summer of 2025) Op/Ed columns on any two different subjects (e.g., tech, politics, education, culture)
- **Two** political cartoons

For each piece you select, you will compose a response of no more than one typed page, in which you clearly address the following:

- **What is the piece saying?** In other words, what is the *message* -- what does it argue?
- **Why is the writer/artist saying it?** In other words, what *purpose* does the writer/artist seek to accomplish? What do they want their audience to *think, feel, do* or *believe*?
- **How are they saying it?** Identify at least five (5) *craft choices/ style moves per written piece* and explain how these choices function to enhance or convey the writer's message.

**NOTE:** You may access your selections from any reputable print or online source. You are strongly encouraged to use the databases available through the Library/Media Center web site.

### **SUBMISSION:**

All work must be formatted according to MLA standards.

All components of your summer assignment must be uploaded to your class's Google Classroom AND to turnitin.com at the beginning of the first day of class. Any incomplete assignments will be subject to late submission penalties after that point.

