



AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BETHANY • ORANGE • WOODBRIDGE

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Grade 12-Summer Reading Assignment: AP English Language and Composition

To prepare for the opportunities and challenges of Advanced Placement Language and Composition, **students must read both of the following texts and complete notes based on the given concepts for each title and each chapter contained therein.**

- ***Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner**
 - Concepts to consider for note-taking:
 - The primary argument (whole book) and secondary claims (primary arguments in each chapter) set forth by the authors
 - The methods by which the authors present and substantiate their argument (i.e. what they *do* as writers to advance their claims); use evidence and provide brief commentary for a few key moves per chapter

- ***But What If We're Wrong?: Thinking About the Present As If It Were the Past* by Chuck Klosterman**
 - Concepts to consider for note-taking:
 - The structure of Klosterman's argument and the argument's inherent limitations
 - The author's style and its impact upon the argument and audience; use evidence and brief commentary for a few key moves per chapter

Additional Information/Requirements:

While exhaustive notation (i.e. 10-12 pages per text) is not necessary, let these above-noted concepts direct you toward recording purposeful, targeted, and relevant notes that leverage specific evidence; *your notes should span the arc of the entire text and demonstrate careful, close reading and thoughtful consideration of the topics above.* Think of each concept as a question in need of an answer through examples (direct evidence) and brief annotations (your thoughts/interactions with the evidence).

Include in your notes MLA in-text citations. I encourage you to cite directly and paraphrase where appropriate, but remember to accurately cite for every instance in which you record evidence in your notes. General guidelines can be found at [Purdue OWL MLA](#). A Works Cited page for this assignment is not necessary as we are all working with the same texts.

Upon entering class in the fall, students will work comprehensively with the summer reading texts, and writing assignments will follow, including a graded essay on one of the texts in the first week of school. For that essay, you may use *your own* notes but not the text. The writing prompt(s) will call upon the concepts above. Do not bring in copy-pasted notes or plagiarize notes from any other source. Notes must be your own.

Please obtain copies of these texts and have them with you in class beginning on the first day of the school year. We will use them in class. Plan to have them with you each day until otherwise noted. If procuring these texts is problematic, please make arrangements through the school library or your free, local public library.