

Advanced Placement Language & Composition Pre-Course Assignment 2023-24

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Welcome to AP Language & Composition! This course is an examination of how writers write & how writing contains intentional techniques which promote the writer's purpose. This course demands constant writing and skilled analytical reading to uncover what language is all about. The rigor and demands of this course serve to prepare you for the AP test in May, as well as engage you in a discovery of the various ways language can shape society.

In order to prepare for AP Language & Composition, you will need to continue practicing your critical reading and analysis skills over the summer/prior to our time together. It is my hope that you will enjoy your journey into the workings and mysteries of the human brain. Please review this document thoroughly, paying close attention to due dates. Do not hesitate to email me with questions, or if you need assistance securing a copy of the choice novel. I look forward to meeting each of you in the fall! -Mrs. Stamey

Assignment 1: TEDx Talks

Prior to reading your choice novel, and in order to gain some intriguing context on how our brains function, watch each of the following Tedx Talks:

1. Dr. Daniel Amen's "[The most important lesson from 83,000 brain scans](#)" [14:36]
2. Dr. Laura Boyd's "[After watching this, your brain will not be the same](#)" [14:24]

As you listen, please fill out the graphic organizer [linked here](#). You'll need to print (or use Kami to edit/save) two forms; fill out one for *each* presentation.

Tedx Responses (2) are due the first week of class.

Assignment 2: Choice Novel

Refer to the reviews of each of the memoirs below. **Pick ONE** to read and annotate. If you do not own your own copy of the text, you may complete annotations using sticky notes. Students who read actively by making notes about key events, connections to other texts or events, thoughts/questions as they arise, etc. will have something to which they can refer when our class begins & use this on our initial assignment. In addition to annotations, please share with me a google document, where you reflect on at least 10 powerful passages ([I suggest this format](#)). The passage may be as short as a sentence or as long as a paragraph, but please be sure you include the passage (in quotation marks, cited in MLA format) and then a brief response to the passage. Choose passages from the beginning, middle and end of the text. These responses may include your personal musings, how you see the passage as important to the greater message of the book, or any other commentary you find pertinent. Personal responses should be in the ballpark of 2-3 sentences- no longer than 1 paragraph.

Proof of your reading, reflections and annotations will be assessed in the first two weeks of class.

1. [Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness](#) by Susannah Cahalan

OR

2. [The Soloist](#) by Steve López