

AP Language and Composition: Summer Assignment 2023

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! This summer's assignment is designed to give you an introduction to the type of assignments you will experience and the degree of close analysis necessary to succeed throughout the course.

AP English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled analysts of prose written in/for a variety of contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes.

This class requires you to delve deeply into the readings and assignments, to question the writer's intent, purpose and bias, and to grapple with the issues the writer presents. With this in mind, you will be asked to watch **ONE** documentary and attend **ONE** cultural experience for the required AP Language and Composition summer assignment for 2023.

Documentary Viewing

For the first part of your summer assignment, we would like you to select and watch one new documentary before the first day of class this fall. The documentary should be feature-length (about 60-120 minutes long), and although it can be on pretty much any subject you're interested in, it must be a legitimate, educational documentary (reality-TV, parodies, and mockumentaries definitely don't count). You are free to search for and watch these documentaries through any means available to you: Netflix, Hulu, HBO, Youtube, Kanopy, the public library, etc.

This is a fairly simple task, as you are not required to take notes or write any sort of response. You only have to watch the documentary and be prepared to speak/write about it during the first week of school in the fall. One of your first assignments of the semester will be to break down the *rhetorical situation* of your documentary, so you should have a strong knowledge of it and be prepared to write about it in depth. Again, notes are not required and will not be collected, but it may be helpful for some of you to jot a few things down in preparation for this first assignment in the fall.

Below you will find a list of recommended documentaries. You **do not** have to choose a documentary from this list, but they are here if you are having trouble finding one on your own. Enjoy!

Recommended Documentaries:

- *The Beatles: Get Back*
- *Athlete A*
- *Super-Size Me*
- *Blackfish*
- *Free Solo*
- *An Inconvenient Truth*
- *Sherpa*
- *Honeyland*
- *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*

- *American Factory*
- *The Farthest*
- *Knock Down the House*
- *Beware the Slenderman*
- *Class Action Park*
- *Tell Me Who I Am*
- *They Shall Not Grow Old*
- *No Safe Spaces*

GRADING INFORMATION

Part One: Documentary Viewing

- Watching the documentary itself will not be worth any points.
- Students should come prepared on August 28 to discuss and write about their documentaries.
- The resulting writing assignment (over the rhetorical situation of the documentary) will be one of the first grades of the semester.

Part 2: Cultural Experience

Being a student means being well-rounded and having experiences that illuminate the cultures around us rather than simply relying on academic reading for our understanding. Understanding literature goes beyond words on a page and involves delving into humanity, which is why good readers are those who have a wide variety of life experiences that they can connect to their reading. The experience the student participates in should be something NEW to the student, outside of their day to day routine. It should offer the student a different insight and new perspective. The experience does not need to have a direct connection to anything the student reads. As well, please note, while some of our suggestions are local, Kansas City opportunities, you can absolutely engage in any of these experiences if you're traveling this summer!

Some ideas of a cultural experience:

- Going to Shakespeare in the Park. (On June 28, the North ELA teachers will be there and have a space reserved for North students and teachers)
- Watch a foreign film (with subtitles in your first language).
- Visit a historical site, museum, or landmark.
- Visit the Nelson-Atkins or another art gallery
- Attend a concert (band or music genre should be new to the student)
- Attend another play or musical
- Eat at an ethnic restaurant. Have the staff order for you! Some restaurants to consider:
 - Elsa's (Ethiopian)
 - Holy Land Cafe (Middle Eastern)
 - El Salvadoreño (Salvadorian)
 - Sohaila's Kitchen (Pakistani)
 - African Dream Cuisine (West African)
 - Anousone's (Lao and Thai)

Please let us know if you have any questions. At this point we don't know which student has which teacher so please include both of us in emails. A response from either of us will be on behalf of both of

us. As well, please note, we will likely not be checking work emails frequently over summer break so please reach out early and expect that a response may not be immediate.

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