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Dear AP Student:

Congratulations to your acceptance into AP Language and Composition for the 2023-2024 school year!! Next year you will be honing your understanding, application, and analysis of argument and rhetoric in the English language, as well as increasing your civic awareness and, hopefully, engagement in the world around you. The summer assignment will create the foundation upon which we will base most of your work throughout the upcoming year.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: BECOMING AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU

For your summer assignment, I am going to ask you to “dip your toe into the water” of the news and begin to become an informed citizen (if you’re not already!) A big part of AP Language is thinking and writing critically about a wide range of topics and current events- but before you can think and write about it, you have to know about it!

There are many ways that you can begin to become aware of what’s going on in the news:

- ✓ follow news outlets (local or national) on your social media channels,
- ✓ watch news shows on regular TV or streaming services,
- ✓ listen to it as a podcast,
- ✓ read it in a physical newspaper or set up your computer for Google News/Apple News/CNN10 (or the like)
- ✓ subscribe to a free email service like The Skimm or The Week.

You can become more informed about issues in society by reading even the headlines and skimming articles!

Your assignment:

1. Read each option below.
2. **Choose 2** of the media options from the chart below. (While some options can come from sources that require subscriptions, you can complete this assignment completely free.) The topics/content of the options you pick should be similar, even if the two options say different things about the topic/content (some examples, but not an exhaustive list are: civil rights, women’s rights, animal rights/treatment, LGBTQ+ rights, deforestation, sports medicine changes, election accuracy – **DO NOT CHOOSE CLIMATE CHANGE** (we will be doing this as part of our first unit)).
3. Follow the directions in the “Do this activity” column for each option.
4. While taking notes on your choices is not required, we will be using these texts throughout Term 1, so it will be to your advantage to take notes as you are reading/viewing/listening to the texts you choose.
5. Then, prepare a response to the activity you chose, responding to the prompts in the “Then answer this” column. Responses should:
 - Be 1-1½ pages, single spaced with Times New Roman size 11 or 12 font FOR EACH OPTION CHOSEN.
 - Not skip spaces between paragraphs and should begin with your MLA heading
 - Answer the questions in the “Then answer this” column, but not necessarily in the order presented.

Arrange your response as a coherent, thoughtful response that is well organized. Think of how to logically organize your ideas and order your information that way.

- The questions are not meant to be answered chronologically as if they are #1, #2, #3, and on. They are meant to engage your thinking to help you respond to what you have read, viewed, or listened to. While you should respond to these questions in your answer, you should not answer them in this order; instead, organize your response into paragraphs, organized by like ideas.
- Be detailed and specific in your answer. High quality answers will not only answer the questions but do so thoughtfully, thinking critically about what the student viewed and how that not only impacted the work at the time of the viewing/reading/listening, but the overall work. Responses will be detailed, organized, and thoughtful.

Media Types (Choose 2)	Do this activity	Then answer this
OPTION 1: Journalism	<p>Read an opinion article from a major news source listed below*. If you go to their websites, you will find a category called OPINIONS in the menu.</p> <p>Choose “columnist” not letters or editorials. You will see written opinions on all kinds of topics.</p> <p>*Examples of newsworthy sites: <i>AP, Reuters, PBS, The BBC, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The New York Times, The Guardian, Rasmussen Reports, CNN (website), NPR, NBC ABC, CBS, Boston Herald, The Vox, The Boston Globe</i></p>	<p>In your response**:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Give the title of the piece, author, and a brief summary. ● What is the author’s claim (their main argument)? ● How do they support (back up) this claim? ● What did you notice about <u>the writing</u> (not the content) that was effective or persuasive? What did the writer do (not say) to try to get their reader to believe them? Do you feel this was effective? ● Do you agree with the writer’s opinions in the article? Why or why not? <p>**Please provide a link to your article at the end of your response (if submitting digitally) or a hard copy of your article (if submitting hard copy).</p> <p>*If your article comes from a paywall source (meaning you or your family pay for a subscription or you signed up for a free trial, please copy/paste your article to the end of your document so I can have access to it without paying.)</p>
OPTION 2: Podcast	<p>Choose one non-fiction (fact-based) Podcast and listen to at least 1 hour of it. You do not have to start from episode 1 (you can continue a podcast you already listen to!). (Listen to 1 hour, however many episodes that may be- listen to full episodes, please; do not end mid-episode once you hit one hour.)</p> <p>You can access podcasts from Apple, Spotify, or other music streaming services. <u>There are thousands of free podcasts to choose but choose a podcast that is “family friendly”</u> and that you can talk about in a classroom setting.</p>	<p>In your responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Give the title of the podcast, episode number(s) and title(s) and a brief summary of what your episode(s) are about. ● Podcasts can’t be boring or they won’t be successful. Producers hire good speakers, provide music, humor, sound effects, and other devices to engage their listeners. What specific choices do the podcast producers make to create an engaging podcast? How do these choices make the podcast enjoyable (and potentially stand out from other podcasts of this genre)? ● Did you enjoy your episodes? What did the hosts or producers do (or not do) to contribute to your opinion?

Choose one full-length (not episodic) documentary (1 hour or longer) you have not seen on a topic you are not especially familiar with. Watch the entire documentary.

Go to the “documentaries” section of your TV, Netflix, Hulu, or other streaming account. Youtube also has some free.

In your responses:

- Give the title, director, network, and brief summary of the film.
- What is the purpose of this film? (What does the film want its audience to know/understand/do after viewing?) How do you know this is what the film is trying to achieve?
- What specific choices do the filmmakers make to convince or inform you of their purpose?
- Are these choices effective? Why or why not?
- Did you like the documentary? What about the documentary contributed to this opinion?

Due Dates:

- ⇒ Be ready to discuss the options you chose on the first day of school (**September 6, 2023**).
- ⇒ The written components (notes/annotations and handout for each text) are due in class the first Monday of school: **September 11, 2023**. If you are absent on the due date, you must email your work by 2 pm.
- ⇒ If you are submitting your work digitally, class time will be given to show you how to upload to Teams (or whatever LMS we use in the fall). Come to class with a hard copy or digital copy, **ready to submit at the beginning of class**. Have a back up in case your original method fails (ie, email it to yourself if you’re relying on the Cloud, or vice versa).
- ⇒ **Late assignments lose 7 points each assignment, per day.**

Grading:

- ⇒ Your written work will be counted as 1 formative (quiz) grade.
- ⇒ Your work will be graded based on its completeness, thoroughness, and detailed nature of the way your responses fulfill the requirements; your writing will also be evaluated for its quality. Incomplete work will be given partial credit, depending on the amount of work completed.
- ⇒ We will also use the work you did on the summer assignment as the foundation for future assessments in Term 1.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ✍ **AP English Language and Composition is a college-level course, not a preparation for college. Students who find the greatest success are focused, motivated, and diligent in their studies.**
- ✍ I recommend beginning the assignment as early as possible. Consider creating a schedule of mini-deadlines over the summer to complete your work.
- ✍ We will be using the works in detail throughout the term, so you will do yourself a disservice by skimming and/or skipping sections of these texts.
- ✍ If you have questions or concerns, please email me at maurawolfe@bpsma.org from your *school email* address. Write an appropriate subject in the subject line. Please keep your questions simple, concise, and professional (i.e., proofread your email!) I check my email occasionally over the summer. **Please note:** I am unavailable between the dates of August 27-September 4, 2023.

I’m looking forward to our year together next year. Have a great but safe summer!

Mrs. Wolfe 😊