

2024 AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (grades 11 and 12) *Please email marijane.mccormack@icloud.com with any questions. Please give the subject of “Summer Reading” in your email.

Google classroom code: [gij734l](#) Please join no later than the last day of the 2024 school year (6/14/24).

FOCUS FOR THE YEAR: Rhetoric is the art of using language to persuade, motivate, or inform an audience via writing or speech. This is also known as the art of [discourse](#). The goal of rhetoric is to move the audience to action through effective arguments. While rhetoric was originally seen as most important for political discourse, scholars who study it find examples of rhetoric in a wide range of fields, from fine art to fiction to architecture. Rhetoric is involved when communication is used to achieve a certain end. (www.literarydevices.com)

- 1. Podcasts:** Podcasts are a great way to stay informed and begin to understand rhetoric. One of the most challenging aspects of the exam is coming up with compelling evidence for an argumentative question. However, podcasts can help you build a body of knowledge while you are on the bus, or running, or just hanging out. Please watch this brief video from an AP teacher & select a few podcasts. Then complete the podcast response sheet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkGyBG-sMU8>

Here is a list to get you started:

Listen to a total of 4 episodes from a podcast over the summer check in dates are 7/15, and 8/15 in google classroom assignments!!! Plan accordingly.

- “99% Invisible” is about all the thought that goes into the things we don’t think about — the unnoticed architecture and design that shape our world.
- “This American Life” is primarily a journalistic nonfiction program, it has also featured essays, memoirs, field recordings, short fiction, and found footage. y
- “Radiolab” is a show about curiosity where sound illuminates ideas, and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy, and human experience.

- “StarTalk Radio” is a radio program devoted to all things space and is hosted by renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.
- “Criminal” is about crime: stories of people who’ve done wrong, been wronged, or gotten caught somewhere in the middle.
- “Invisibilia” (Latin for invisible things) is about the invisible forces that control human behavior – ideas, beliefs, assumptions, and emotions.
- “StartUp” is a series about what it’s really like to get a business off the ground.
- “Ted Talk Radio Hour” is a journey through fascinating ideas: astonishing inventions, fresh approaches to old problems, new ways to think and create.
- “Planet Money” is about the economy, explained, with stories and surprises.
- “Stuff You Should Know” educates listeners on a wide variety of topics, often using popular culture as a reference giving the podcast comedic value.
- “Nova” brings you short audio stories from the world of science — anything from hurricanes to mummies to neutrinos.
- “Rationally Speaking” explores the borderlands between reason and nonsense, likely and unlikely, and science and pseudoscience.
- “13 Minutes to the Moon” Season 2 - Last year’s in-depth retelling of the Apollo 11 mission – Armstrong, Aldrin, one giant step, etc – was gripping and inspiring, and while you’d be hard-pressed to make a podcast not gripping or inspiring out of the moon landings, it was beautifully done.
- “30 for 30” is about all things sports.

Check in dates (reply before): July 15th, August 15th

2. Fiction: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

We will use the work as a starting point at the beginning of the year to analyze **style, mood, and tone** in writing. Please take notes on style, mood & tone. Ask yourself & note:

- * How does Cummins create the emotional climate (mood) of the book? (with examples from text and page numbers)

*What is interesting about the structure of the work? How does it begin & why is it effective?

*What is the structure of the plot? Write down sentences that intrigue you, puzzle you, shock you or interest you with your commentary & proper citations (style).

*What is the attitude of the writer towards her subject matter? How do we know this? What parts of the work evidence tone & why?

HINT: The **style** in writing can be defined as the way a writer writes. It is the technique that an individual author uses in his writing. It varies from author to author, and depends upon one's [syntax](#), word choice, and tone. It can also be described as a "[voice](#)" that readers listen to when they read the work of a writer. (www.literarydevices.net)

3. NON-FICTION: After (and only after) reading *American Dirt*, find two critiques of the work & the author. This book is controversial for a few reasons and I want you equipped to weigh in on the controversy. (Some potential sources are: NPR, The Atlantic, college websites). Please **ANNOTATE these articles**.