

AP Language & Composition  
Introduction & Summer Reading

Hello & Welcome to the wonderful world of AP Language & Composition! I am so excited to welcome you into my classroom in August and embark on this journey with you. Before we begin our time together, I wanted to take a moment to offer you a few highlights of the course and introduce your first (summative) assignment: summer reading.

- As the title suggests, this course is a study of *language*, not literature. What's the difference? In this class, we will study shorter, **nonfiction texts** as opposed to the literary texts you're used to studying in an English course.
- Because we will study nonfiction texts, we may come across texts with opinions with which you (and I) don't agree with - that's what I love most about this course! We get to study texts with opinions from all sorts of people from all over the world. Feel free to openly disagree with those opinions, but let's be prepared to do so in a constructive and respectful manner.
- You will learn **three** different types of writing this year: synthesis, rhetorical analysis, and argument. While you may have some familiarity with some of these writing styles, please understand that for the most part, these will be completely *new* to you. As my five-year-old is learning while he rides his bike, you may fall down a few times, but in the end, **if you trust the process**, you will prevail!
- A's: we all love, we all want them. This is *truly* a college-level course; to earn an A, you're going to have to put in time outside of class to fine tune the skills we practice in class. You won't always have homework, but there is *always* something you can be doing to improve. If you don't know where to start, ask me to assign extra AP classroom work.
- Most importantly, I am your partner in this journey. At times, you will be frustrated. I get that. This is new and it is *hard*. Ask for help - often. I can help you however you need me to, but you need to ask for it!

**Summer Reading - Part I**

Read any edition of *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs. This is a **favorite** book in the AP Language world and, though it is a textbook, I think you will enjoy the writer's style. This book will introduce you to rhetoric on a fundamental level that we don't have time to cover in class.

I used to ask students to write section summaries as the accountability piece for this part of the summer reading. I'm not going to ask you to do that. You will have to apply your reading to the second part of this assignment and, if you don't read, you are going to struggle as we begin. So, *please read!*

## Summer Reading - Part II

In the first few days of class, I will introduce to you your current events assignment. This is a lengthy, ongoing assignment that will be due at the end of each semester. To prepare us for that assignment and to apply your understanding of the concepts you read in *Thank You for Arguing*, please complete the following chart using four newspaper articles of your choice.

Exigence	Intended Purpose	Summary	Rhetorical Appeals	Citation
<p>Why specifically was this article published? This should be a minimum of 1 sentence in length.</p>	<p>What is the <b>persuasive</b> purpose of the article? What does the writer want to <b>convince</b> the audience of? This should be a minimum of 1 sentence in length.</p>	<p>What is the article about? Write an objective summary in third-person. This should be 5-7 sentences in length and answer the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?</p>	<p>Identify one example of <b>each</b> of the rhetorical appeals covered in the text (ethos, logos, and pathos -- you don't have to worry about kairos). Include a <b>cited example</b> of the appeal and a 2-3 sentence explanation as to how it reflects the appeal.</p>	<p>Please include a citation in MLA format for the article you read.</p>
<p><b>This article was published as response to the many reports that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were chased by paparazzi while traveling by car -</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this article is to convince the audience that journalists are working with integrity to capture the lives of Harry and Meghan (as required by their job) but not jeopardize</p>	<p>The article, "Meghan and Harry looked nervous says New York taxi driver" by Kayla Epstein recounts the brief commute from a NYC police precinct to an intended, undisclosed</p>	<p><b>Ethos:</b> The article includes an interview with the Taxi driver who would have witnessed and been a part of the car chase.  This is ethos because the article becomes</p>	<p><b>Epstein, Kayla. "Meghan and Prince Harry Looked Nervous, Says New York Taxi Driver." <i>BBC News</i>, 18 May 2023, <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us">www.bbc.com/news/world-us</a></b></p>

<p>reminiscent of Prince Harry's belief of how the paparazzi was responsible for his mother's death.</p>	<p>their safety.</p>	<p>destination driven by Sukhcharn Singh ("Sonny") on Wednesday afternoon. The media had previously reported that Harry and Meghan classified the incident as a "near-catastrophic car chase." Sonny, on the other hand, reported that while the pair did appear nervous, his experience was nothing like what was reported. Sonny added that the purported chase may have been a day-long affair but not something that happened while they were in his cab. The article goes on to detail the job of the media as, in part, responsible for chronicling the lives of esteemed people - such</p>	<p>more credible if it includes somebody directly involved in the incident. The narrative about the threat to Harry and Meghan's safety saturated the media and was based solely on allegation, so this first-hand account of the experience increases the credibility of the reporting.</p> <p><b>Logos:</b> "They were behind us. I mean, they stayed on top of us, that was pretty much it, it was nothing more. They kept their distance."</p> <p>Sonny acknowledges that the media was trying to cover Harry and Meghan. He, however, offers an account of the story that suggests they "kept their distance" while</p>	<p>-canada-65629 160.</p>
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		<p>as Harry and Meghan. The article reveals that the allegations about their safety raised by Harry will be investigated, it doesn't appear the photographers overstepped their professional responsibility. The article ends with a remark on the substantial police presence in Manhattan and the decreased threat to safety as a result.</p>	<p>still carrying out their professional responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Pathos:</b>  “near-catastrophic car chase”</p> <p>This phrase is daunting and makes the audience compelled to believe that Harry and Meghan's safety was at risk. For those who remember the events that led to Princess Diana's death, it may also bring up some unsettling memories of that event. Because the phrase is in quotation marks, however, it settles the audience's anxiety by making it clear that while alarming, it is, at this point, merely allegation.</p>	
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<p><b>Exigence</b></p>	<p>This article was published as response to the many reports that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were chased by paparazzi while traveling by car - reminiscent of Prince Harry's belief of how the paparazzi was responsible for his mother's death.</p>
<p><b>Intended Purpose</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this article is to convince the audience that journalists are working with integrity to capture the lives of Harry and Meghan (as required by their job) but not jeopardize their safety.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	<p>The article, "Meghan and Harry looked nervous says New York taxi driver" by Kayla Epstein recounts the brief commute from a NYC police precinct to an intended, undisclosed destination driven by Sukhcham Singh ("Sonny") on Wednesday afternoon. The media had previously reported that Harry and Meghan classified the incident as a "near-catastrophic car chase." Sonny, on the other hand, reported that while the pair did appear nervous, his experience was nothing like what was reported. Sonny added that the purported chase may have been a day-long affair but not something that happened while they were in his cab. The article goes on to detail the job of the media as, in part, responsible for chronicling the lives of esteemed people - such as Harry and Meghan. The article reveals that the allegations about their safety raised by Harry will be investigated, it doesn't appear the photographers overstepped their professional responsibility. The article ends with a remark on the substantial police presence in Manhattan and the decreased threat to safety as a result.</p>
<p><b>Rhetorical Appeals</b></p>	<p><b>Ethos:</b> The article includes an interview with the Taxi driver who would have witnessed and been a part of the car chase.</p> <p>This is ethos because the article becomes more credible if it includes somebody directly involved in the incident. The narrative about the threat to Harry and Meghan's safety saturated the media and was based solely on allegation, so this first-hand account of the experience increases the credibility of the reporting.</p> <p><b>Logos:</b> "They were behind us. I mean, they stayed on top of us, that was pretty much it, it was nothing more. They kept their distance."</p> <p>Sonny acknowledges that the media was trying to cover Harry and Meghan. He, however, offers an account of the story that suggests they "kept their distance" while still carrying out their professional responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Pathos:</b> "near-catastrophic car chase"</p>

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<b>Citation</b>	Epstein, Kayla. “Meghan and Prince Harry Looked Nervous, Says New York Taxi Driver.” <i>BBC News</i> , 18 May 2023, <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65629160">www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65629160</a> .

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<b>Summary</b>	What is the article about? Write an objective summary in third-person. This should be 5-7 sentences in length and answer the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
<b>Rhetorical Appeals</b>	Identify one example of <b>each</b> of the rhetorical appeals covered in the text (ethos, logos, and pathos -- you don’t have to worry about kairos). Include a <b>cited example</b> of the appeal and a 2-3 sentence explanation as to how it reflects the appeal.
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