



# Sun Valley High School AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

## Summer Reading Philosophy

The Language Arts Department at Sun Valley High School believes reading enriches a student's academic experience and greatly rewards future endeavors. Reading over the summer not only strengthens previous learning, but lays the groundwork for the next school year. Summer reading programs support students in the following ways:

- ❖ Previews themes and motifs of upcoming courses
- ❖ Enhances critical thinking and provides enrichment opportunities
- ❖ Commonality of texts promotes student -to- student discussion
- ❖ Introduces an array of genres
- ❖ Encourages them to read for enjoyment
- ❖ Combats the loss of reading achievement over the summer

## Welcome Future AP Lang Students

Welcome to Summer Reading!

This course places an emphasis on reading and writing that explores a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and on becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. This class will DEFINITELY prepare you for college and we'll have some fun along the way!

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at @

[jlansberry@pdsd.org](mailto:jlansberry@pdsd.org)

Happy reading!

**These are your summer reading books:**

1. ***Thank you for Arguing***, Jay Heinrichs (3rd edition if possible but any edition works)

a. THANK YOU FOR ARGUING is an exploration of one of the main topics of our course: rhetoric, the art and science of persuasion. Jay Heinrichs uses many examples, some modern, some ancient, to illustrate the various important aspects of argument. To show your understanding of his points, please complete the following charts:

Title	
Speaker (provide detailed information about the author)	
Context (setting - place, time, culture, and how this might affect the big ideas of the book)	
Exigence (What is the author's reason for writing?)	

- 10 quotes throughout the text, beginning, middle, and end
- Commentary (explain how the quotes illustrate or connect to the author's overall purpose)

Quotes	Commentary


**Choice Book!**

- a. Chose a book that meets the following criteria:
  - i. non-fiction
  - ii. At least 200 pages in length
  - iii. Of an appropriate reading level for 11th grade AP students. In order to check a book's reading level, try searching for it in the "Quick Book Search" tool on [lexile.com](http://lexile.com). Look for the Age Range on the book's summary page.
- b. Answer the following questions based on your choice book:
  - i. What was the purpose of this book (eg, to teach, to entertain)? How do you know?
  - ii. If this book was intended to teach the reader something, did it succeed? Was something learned from reading this book, if so what? If not, why did the book fail as a teaching tool?
  - iii. Choose a specific passage that has left an impression, good or bad. Share the passage and its effect.
  - iv. Was the purpose of the book to bring to light an issue? If so, did it make you more aware and knowledgeable about the particular issue? How did your earlier opinions about the issue change after reading this book?
  - v. If the book addressed an issue, did the author cover both sides of the topic fairly and thoroughly or did the book appear to be biased, solely written to promote the author's own agenda?
  - vi. After reading the book, has your interest been piqued about the subject matter? If so, would you consider reading more on the topic in the future?
  - vii. The way a nonfiction book is written can impact a reader's enjoyment and understanding of it. Was the book written in a way that was easily accessible? Did the language make you lose interest in something that would have otherwise been an exciting subject? Were unfamiliar terms and concepts explained? Were there plenty of visuals to reinforce the subject matter and were they helpful?
  - viii. Did the author provide any pertinent web links for readers to use? If so, would you--or did you-- visit them?
  - ix. Did the author provide a suggested reading list or references for further information on the topic? If so, would you consider reading any of the suggestions? Why or why not?