

**Waco ISD Advanced Academics
AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2026**

Assignment One: Your first assignment is to expand your world a bit. Part of being in AP English Language and Composition is being a student of the world. For EACH category below, choose what you would like to read and listen to. Answer the questions for reflection in a separate Google doc. Be mindful of organization, spelling, and punctuation in your responses.

A) Read Journalism

Read two opinion articles from [Major News Sources](#).

If you go to its website, you will find a category called OPINIONS in the menu. You will see written opinions on all kinds of topics. Pick **two articles** to read and write reflections on. In your reflection:

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- Include the title of the piece, the author, and a brief summary.
- Explain what the writer's claim is and how the writer supports his or her claim.
- What did you notice about the writing that was effective or persuasive?
- Do you agree with the writer? Why or why not? Explain.

B) Listen to a Podcast

You can access podcasts from Apple, Spotify, or other streaming music services. There are thousands to choose from, but choose one that is “family friendly” and that you can talk about in a classroom setting.

Choose **ONE** podcast and listen to at least three episodes of it. There is a list of suggested podcasts in this [☰ Podcast List](#) linked if you need help finding one.

In your reflection:

- Give the title of the podcast and a brief summary of what your episodes 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?
- Did you enjoy your episodes? Why or why not? Explain. Assignment Two: Your second assignment is to read a full-length text. Choose a title from the list below to read. You may purchase a copy or check one out from the UHS library, the SORA app, or the Waco-McLennan County Library. As you read the text, complete ten dialectical journal entries. These may be done in a Google Doc or in a composition book that will be turned in when school begins in August.
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *Educated* by Tara Westover

- *Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Charles & Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman
- *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

Tasks: Dialectical Journal (10 entries – 5 from the first half of the book, 5 from the second half of the book)