ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY
AP AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Teacher: Ms. Liz Kelley

Welcome to AP American Language and Composition! Below you will find the summer reading assignment for two books. One introduces you to rhetorical ideas and strategies that we will work with all year, and the second book begins our instruction on Indigenous People. I have provided the links to the correct editions for the books we are reading. **I require new, unmarked books.**

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 1:

Thank You for Arguing What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About The Art Of Persuasion - Fourth Edition, by Jay Henrichs
(Use this link to obtain the correct edition of the book)

Please read *Thank You for Arguing What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach us About the Art of Persuasion - Fourth Edition* by Jay Henrichs before the first day of classes for the 2026-27 school year.

1. One of the best ways that I can prepare you for the AP class is to make sure we have a common language when it comes to rhetoric and the art of persuasion. **Read Chapters 1-17 of the book.**

2. The goals of this reading are:
    a. to begin to explore the many ways authors and speakers shape their arguments to persuade an audience
    b. to explore the techniques
    c. to gain a basic understanding of Aristotle's appeals: character (ethos), emotion (pathos), and logic (logos); and
    d. to be able to apply this new knowledge to the Momaday book.

3. As you read, annotate to demonstrate **active reading and rhetorical analysis**. Your annotations should reflect your ability to analyze how arguments are constructed and communicated. **DO NOT just highlight or mark passages without an explanation.**

    a. Annotate with Purpose
    - Highlight or mark key passages
    - Write margin notes explaining WHY you marked them
    - Go beyond summary—focus on analysis and interpretation
    - Pay close attention to bolded terms and key rhetorical concepts

    b. Identify the Rhetorical Situation: determine:
    - **Speaker** (Who is making the argument?)
    - **Purpose** (What is the speaker trying to achieve?)
    - **Audience (Must be specific — NOT "general public")**

    Ask: *Does the audience already agree or disagree? What assumptions does the speaker make about the audience's knowledge or beliefs? Is the speaker trying to influence beliefs, attitudes, or actions?*

continued

c. Trace the Line of Reasoning

- Identify the author's main claims
- Track how ideas develop across the chapter
- Note how examples, anecdotes, or explanations support the argument

Ask: *How does each section contribute to the overall argument?*

d. Identify and Label Rhetorical Appeals - Mark and label evidence of:

- **Ethos** (credibility, trust, authority)
- **Pathos** (emotional appeal, humor, tone)
- **Logos** (logic, reasoning, examples)

Ask: *How is Heinrichs trying to persuade his audience here?*

e. Analyze Rhetorical Choices & Strategies - Mark specific choices such as:

- **diction (word choice)**
- **tone and voice**
- **figurative language**
- **examples and anecdotes**
- **organization and structure**

Ask: *Why does Heinrichs use this strategy, and how does it affect the audience?*

f. Engage Critically with the Text

- React to Heinrichs' ideas and claims
- Agree, question, or challenge his reasoning
- Make connections to other texts or real-world examples
- Identify which strategies are most effective and why

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2:

The Man Made of Words, by N. Scott Momaday
(Use this link to obtain the correct edition of the book)

Please read ***The Man Made of Words*** before the first day of classes of the 2026-27 school year. You will annotate as you read along. Use all five strategies for each section (for example Introduction, The Arrow Maker.) Annotate in your book or with sticky notes. **DO NOT just highlight or mark passages without an explanation.**

As you read, use the following strategies to **annotate your book**:

1. Comprehension and Line of Reasoning:
Summarize key ideas and important sections, identify the author's main claims and progression of ideas (line of reasoning), note shifts in ideas, tone, or focus

Ask yourself: *What is the author saying here, and how does this section move the overall argument forward?*

2. Key Terms & Diction

- Define unfamiliar or important words
- Identify significant or repeated language
- Consider how specific word choices (diction) shape meaning or tone

Ask yourself: *Why does the author use this word or phrase here?*

continued

3. Connections and Context - Make meaningful connections to:

- other texts
- historical or cultural context
- larger ideas (identity, language, storytelling, power)
- Consider how context influences meaning

Ask yourself: *How does this text connect to broader ideas or other works you have studied?*

4. Rhetorical Analysis (Author's Purpose & Choices)

- Identify the author's purpose, audience, and message
- Mark and analyze rhetorical choices such as:
  - imagery
  - repetition
  - narrative structure
  - tone
  - figurative language

Ask yourself: *How does the author communicate their message, and why are these choices effective?*

5. Cultural Understanding & Perspective

- Note insights about Native American culture, storytelling, and identity
- Identify how the author's perspective shapes the text
- Consider how this text may challenge or expand your understanding

Ask yourself: *What new perspectives or ideas is this text introducing?*

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT FOR BOOKS 1 AND 2:

Book annotations for both books and the Rhetorical Analysis journal are due on the first day of class.

<u>Non-Fiction Books and Analysis Instructions</u>

Choose two sections of ***The Man Made of Words*****, by N.Scott Momaday**

1. Apply what you have learned in *Thank You for Arguing* book to the Momaday book:
   - Choose five different rhetorical devices or strategies from Heinrichs to apply to two different sections of the Momaday book. This will give you a total of 10 rhetorical devices or strategies to analyze the Momaday book.

2. Create a google doc of your rhetorical analysis of the Momaday book. We will use the quotes and examples you collect for your first essay at the beginning of the year. Type the doc in MLA format.

A sample doc can be found here.