

AP Language Adventure - Summer Assignment

Mrs. Barnett - wbarnett@gsboe.org

This assignment is to be completed over the summer and is to be presented on August 20-21. This is meant to be fun but rewarding. In addition, the more you know the more evidence you can use to back up your arguments. Please note that all aspects of this assignment can be accomplished virtually via the internet and do not cost you anything but time and effort - stay safe and well!

Congratulations! You have taken the first step towards success in college by accepting the challenge of Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. You are about to begin a great adventure that will broaden your horizons. The work begins now, as you plan to complete summer readings and assignments prior to the start of next school year. I am looking forward to a terrific year and you are a talented group. Thus, we can't lose! Remember, this course offers rewards far beyond the ordinary class so please don't be daunted by the work. Have fun completing the summer readings and assignments! See you in August for the beginning of our great adventure!

AP Lang is a composition course, which means we'll be focusing on writing. However, what might surprise you is that one of the keys to success in this course is actually reading and thinking about the world. Let's face it: you can't write about something that you don't know; you can't clearly explain something that your thinking is fuzzy on. Students who do best in this course and on this exam are the students with KNOWLEDGE about the world around them and who are in the habit of THINKING about the world around them.

In short, you need to become a **Student of the World**. This means that you're someone who is always engaged in observing, reading about, and reflecting on the world around you. It means you go out of your way to be someone who likes exploring and encountering new things. It means that you pay attention not only to what's going on around you, but to what you THINK about it. Students of the World are not satisfied mindlessly meeting requirements and being told what to do; instead, they *seek* out a sense of passion and *learn* because they're interested in experiencing life.

This assignment is going to set you on your path to becoming a Student of the World. It's designed to help you build your personal set of background knowledge by exploring diverse information and experiences and by providing you with opportunities to explore the world around you. You'll then have new information and experiences from which to pull as you develop and support your own arguments and think critically about the arguments of others. The better informed you are, the more evidence you have at your disposal when you need it; the more practiced you are at complex thinking, the easier it will be to do so on the spot.

WARNING: IF your intention is to plagiarize in any way, shape or form then this is not the class for you. This class is all about developing **your** brain and **your** voice and you can't do that if you copy someone else! Plagiarism is considered a serious offense and plagiarized papers will receive a ZERO. If you are confused and need help feel free to email me and I will gladly help you BUT do your own work!

Definition: Schema (pronounced *SKEE-muh*) means a framework of understanding; in other words, background information and experience. The point of this assignment is to *build your schema*.

The Adventure: To complete as many of these schema builders as you can over the summer; list of options attached.

Your Assignment: For each schema builder all you have to do is the following:

1. **Identify your source/activity:** give as much basic information as possible (depending on the source/activity, as applicable: title, author, creator, physical location, URL, time, place, etc.)
2. **Write about a half page reflection:** thoughtfully comment on your experience & answer *one or more* of the following:
 - What did you notice about the source/activity?
 - What did you like about the source/activity? What about it pushed you out of your comfort zone?
 - What did you THINK about the source/activity?
 - What do you know/understand now that you didn't before?
 - How did this experience change the way you think about something?
 - What is a thought, idea, or perspective that you might not have considered if you hadn't encountered this material?

This can be handwritten, digital, or a combination as long as it is organized and readable at the end of August. **Though it's not required, feel free to be creative in your presentation (ex. Create a binder that includes evidence you've gathered, such as pictures, pamphlets, etc.)**

To get a **90+**, complete *at least 6* different schema builders and reflections, *each from a different category*.

To get a **80-89**, complete *at least 5* different schema builders and reflections (*category ONE must be included*)

To get a **70-79**, complete *at least 4* different schema builders and reflections.

*Note that the number of schema builders you choose to complete will earn you a grade within the set range, as indicated above. Where your grade falls *within* that range will depend on the degree to which your work shows evidence of engagement, critical thinking, thoroughness, and reflection.

Your Adventure Awaits

Look at the list. There are lots of choices. The point is to explore and learn new things, but also work within areas of interest to you.

The rules:

- Don't write about things you've already read, watched, or done (e.g. you can't use the same book(s) you read in your English class last year).
- You can't double-dip (e.g. you can't count the same history documentary in both the Entertainment category and the History one).
- Some of them CAN be things you've already been planning on doing this summer (e.g. visiting a museum on vacation or a particular book that's been on your to-read list). These are meant to fit into your regular summer plans.
- You can do them with friends or family if you choose.
- Don't choose things that you already regularly do - the point is to have and reflect on NEW experiences.

If you complete these sporadically throughout the summer, you will find that the amount of writing/response you're doing is rather reasonable. If you wait until the last few days of summer and then try to do it all in one shot, this is going to seem like a huge, onerous task. Additionally, cramming it all in at once means you're just going through the motions and missing the point of the assignment (engagement with the world). You've *chosen* to take a high level thinking course; do you really want to start out taking all of the shortcuts? If shortcuts are your thing, do you *really* want to be in a college level course?

Finally, please note that this assignment is not requiring you to do any particular activity.

You don't have to spend a dime or do anything extravagant; essays and other short texts can easily be found online, while books and many movies are available for free at the public library or online. The extensive list of options is meant to provide flexibility for your situation, interests, and abilities, so you can meet your chosen tasks over the summer whether you're traveling to Europe or not leaving the Gulf Coast. Though the goal is to get you engaging with new things, you could complete the required array of activities with nothing more than an internet connection and some creativity.

Category 1: Longer Reading (Choose at least 1) ☐ Read a full length work of nonfiction: free choice ☐ Read a full length work of fiction: free choice, but you are encouraged to seek out something challenging and/or AP level ☐ Read a book about writing - Stephen King <i>On Writing</i>, Anne Lamott <i>Bird by Bird</i>, are some suggestions	Category 2: Shorter Reading (Choose at least 1) ☐ Read an essay of your choice ☐ Read poetry of your choice ☐ Read an article of your choice
Category 3: Entertainment (Choose at least 1) ☐ Watch an Academy Award winning movie ☐ Watch an award winning movie (any award) ☐ Watch a documentary on a subject of your choice ☐ Watch a TED talk on a subject of your choice ☐ Listen to a Podcast on a subject of your choice ☐ Listen to an album in a genre that you don't typically like ☐ Read an article or book on an entertainment person or topic of your choice ☐ Attend a lecture or author talk ☐ View/Listen/Read/Attend something else in the entertainment realm: music, theatre, movies, dance, etc.	Category 4: History (Choose at least 1) ☐ Watch a documentary on a historical time, place, event, or person ☐ Watch a fictional movie based on historical events or people ☐ Read a historical fiction novel ☐ Read a non-fiction book on a historical time, place, event, or person ☐ Read an article about historical time, place, event, or person ☐ Read an article or document of historical significance (written at the point of history) ☐ Experience a historical speech via video, audio, or text ☐ Visit a history museum of some sort ☐ View/Listen/Read/Attend something else in the history realm

Category 5: Universal Truth (Choose at least 1)

- ☐ Find and reflect on a quote (non-cliche) that presents a universal truth (a generally accepted statement about life)
- ☐ Observe some situation from the outside. What is a universal truth about life that you notice from your observation?
- ☐ Read a philosophical book or essay
- ☐ Read about a major philosophical movement
- ☐ Read about a famous philosopher
- ☐ Read about some moral/ethical issues related to a field you're interested in (medicine, science, education, sports, tech, etc.)

Category 6: Government/Politics (Choose at least 1)

- ☐ View/Listen/Read about a current event: local, national, or world
- ☐ Attend a local public government function (borough council meeting, school board meeting, etc.)
- ☐ Visit/tour a public government site (local, national, or global)
- ☐ Get involved with advocacy of an issue that's important to you
- ☐ Volunteer with a local candidate or representative of your choice to get an inside look at the process
- ☐ Follow the progress of an in-the-works bill that is of interest to you

Category 7: Observation & Experience (Choose at least 1) - Virtual Tours

- ☐ View a piece of significant art (in person or in a book/website... well-known or not)
- ☐ Visit a museum (real or virtual!) of a non-historical type
- ☐ Visit a place you've never been (local or global)
- ☐ Attend a type of event you've never attended before (festival, ceremony, etc.)
- ☐ Write in a journal every day for two weeks (and then write your reflection on the experience)
- ☐ Find a new recipe and voluntarily cook a meal for your family or friend group
- ☐ Take a lesson on an activity you've never done before (virtually or in person)
- ☐ Interview an older relative about their life experiences
- ☐ Volunteer some time in a place/organization that you've never done before
- ☐ Try a new physical activity (like a sport or exercise) or a new spiritual or mental activity (like yoga, meditation, or mindfulness)
- ☐ Take a leisurely walk around the neighborhood, while paying attention to the sensory experience in a way you usually don't
- ☐ Attempt to experience complete silence (from sound AND distractions) for a set period of time
- ☐ Spend time doing a specific activity for a younger relative (sibling, cousin, niece/nephew, etc.)
- ☐ Create a piece of artwork or compose a piece of writing, music, or dance
- ☐ Build something
- ☐ Help a neighbor with something
- ☐ Some other cool experience or observation

I look forward to seeing your findings! Remember, you will present these to the class on your assigned class date (August 20 or August 21).

Mrs. W. Barnett