

AP Lang's Not-Summer Assignment

Welcome to your first official exposure to AP Lang! This **does NOT need to be completed over summer**. We will assign it on the first day of school, but if you'd like to go ahead and knock it out, please do. Regardless of when you do it, it really shouldn't take more than an hour. Everyone will need to complete it by **Thursday, August 6** when we will work with the readings and the ideas presented therein; you will then write an in-class essay on **Friday, August 7**. Having a firm, defensible understanding of the readings is imperative to doing well on these first assignments.

Please don't start off the year on the wrong foot. This is not a ton of work, and it's extremely manageable. Just keep in mind that the class is a *college-level* class. We don't expect everything to be perfect by any means, but we do expect your work to show a level of intentionality and intellectual depth.

If you have **any** questions, please email Mr. Manny or Ms. Waldmann. If neither of us responds within 12 hours, we didn't get the email, so please resend, maybe from a different email address. See you in the fall!

Shaun Manny

mannys@fultonschools.org

Maggie Waldmann

waldmannm@fultonschools.org

Jonathan Haidt Readings and Reflections

Read **ONE** of the following essays from Jonathan Haidt, a renown social psychologist:

[The Coddling of the American Mind - The Atlantic](#)

[Why the Past 10 Years of American Life Have Been Uniquely Stupid - The Atlantic](#)

You only have limited access to *The Atlantic* unless you pay for a subscription, so a Word document with the essays is attached. If you have trouble accessing either, please email us.

Assignment: Type a one-page reflection on the essay you chose to read. This doesn't have to be anything formal; we want you to write down **your** thoughts on the ideas presented in the essay. It would be nice if there was some structure to it, but ultimately, we're looking to see how well you can engage with a reading, especially something with a little more meat to it. Don't just shoot for the one-page requirement and cash out. We'd much rather see a deep reflection of the essay done in $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page instead of a rushed, one-page reflection of little merit or depth. The big thing: **Don't just retell what the author is saying. Reflect** on his ideas. How do they impact you? What's his purpose—of what is he trying to convince the readers? Who is the most ideal audience for this message? Do you agree with what he says? Are there parts you'd like to counter or challenge? Is he biased in his perceptions? Short-sighted? Does his argument stand strong? **Show** us that you can engage with others' ideas in a respectful and intellectual way.

You don't have to agree with him. That's the beauty of arguments. AP Lang is about rhetoric (the art of persuasion) and the understanding of effective argumentation. The author is making an argument. Use this knowledge to guide your reflection.

What We'll be Reading

If you enjoy reading a good book or two during breaks, here's what we'll be reading. We've never read any of these, so exhibit a little bit of caution going into them. They're on our respective lists because we've heard they're good and/or they sound interesting. We would love to talk to someone about at least one of these books in August, but we won't be hurt if none of you reads any of these...Mr. Manny will shed a tear, but that's because he's weaker than Ms. Waldmann.

Manny's List

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

The Land and Its People by David Sedaris

Exactly as You Are: The Life and Faith of Mister Rogers

by Shea Tuttle

In the Café of Lost Youth by Patrick Modiano

Waldmann's List

Sunrise on The Reaping by Suzanne Collins

The Last Samurai by Helen DeWitt

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara

James by Percival Everett

Martyr! by Kavech Akbar