

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2026

"Life isn't a support system for art. It's the other way around." -Stephen King

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! This summer reading assignment will mirror the type of reading and writing we explore as a junior. AP English Language and Composition "engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes."

This class requires you to delve deeply into the readings, to question the writer's intent, purpose and bias, and to grapple with the rhetorical strategies the writer employs.

I recommend you purchase the hard copies. Deeply read and annotate these books and buy the workbook:

Outliers by Malcom Gladwell [Must read the first half]

On Writing by Stephen King [Must read the whole book]

Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl [Must read the whole book]

And here is the link to the workbook:

**AP English Language and Composition Premium, 2026:
Prep Book with 8 Practice Tests + Comprehensive
Review + Online Practice (Barron's AP Prep) Premium**

Edition

by [Barron's Educational Series](#) (Author), [George Ehrenhaft Ed. D.](#) (Author),

Assignment #1:

Read, annotate and highlight two of the three books. You can do this with sticky notes or directly in the book if you own it. Show me these annotations when we get back to school.

Suggestions for annotating text can include labeling and interpreting literary devices (metaphor, simile, imagery, personification, symbol, alliteration, metonymy, synecdoche, etc.); labeling and explaining the writer's rhetorical devices and elements of style (tone, diction, syntax, narrative pace, use of figurative language, etc.); or labeling the main ideas, supportive details and/or evidence that leads the reader to a conclusion about the text. Of course, annotations can ALWAYS include questions that you pose and comments regarding connections to other texts that you make while reading. You may also research SOAPSTONES and use those as well in your annotation thoughts. You could also simply react to the text.

Assignment #2:

In addition to annotation, you will start a google slide collection of key lines or sections that resonated with you. A key line is a sentence or group of sentences that really make you think...or compels you to react...or make you explore deeper meanings. After you list the key lines [10 of them at least from each book] be prepared to speak to the class about these lines.

Be ready to answer the questions: **Why does this key line elicit deeper thinking? What did the author intend with this? How might this line move the heart or head? Why did the author include this? What are the deeper meanings of this line? What rhetorical strategies are used? How did you react, interpret, analyze the meaning?** [best to take notes on these areas after each key line]

Assignment #3:

Take a practice test [the entire MC test and only 1 of the 3 essays] in the AP booklet above. **You may use the 2025 or the 2026 AP Language and Composition Prep Book by Barron's.**

Due Date: The second class day that we meet.

