AP Language and Composition: Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! As preparation for this course, you will read a book over the summer (hopefully, you also will be reading other books for pleasure). Reading over the summer keeps your mind active and will give us a way to jump into the curriculum at the start of school. You will read Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. **You need to purchase a physical copy of this book, not a digital copy**.

AP Lang. focuses on rhetorical analysis, genuine inquiry, engagement with ideas, and multimodal composition. Be an active reader and thinker as you read (and enjoy!) *Just Mercy*. Furthermore, according to the College Board, "[a]t the heart of an AP English and Composition course is the reading of various texts…[w]hile writing represents a significant component of this course, the core skill required is the ability to read well. In reading another writer's work, students must be able to address four fundamental questions about composition: What is being said? To whom is it being said? How is it being said? [and] Why is it being said?" Keep these questions in mind as you are reading this summer.

Assignment: **Read and Annotate** *Just Mercy*.

● Effective annotations are key to critically reading, understanding, and responding to a work. You can mark the book (this can include underlining/highlighting with notes in the margins, but also must include marginal comments or notes at the end of a chapter), use sticky notes, or keep an annotation journal (some students like to do a split

page for journals: the left side for quotes, paraphrase, or summary, and the right side for reactions, questions, analysis, etc.). You can also develop a system that will work for you all year: highlight key ideas and quotes; bracket main ideas or use asterisks; use abbreviations for figurative language (like S for symbol) or rhetorical choices; make for marginal notes; write notes/questions at the end of the chapter, etc.

● I like to read first and then go back and mark/annotate, but the method is up to you. Just don't lose the joy of reading (and it is a joy!) by getting distracted by annotations -- annotations should add to the appreciation of a work, not take away from it.

● What to annotate? Annotations (and this includes notes or a journal) can include marking/noting the main ideas, supportive details and/or evidence; labeling and explaining the writer's rhetorical devices and elements of style (tone, diction, syntax, narrative pace, use of figurative language, etc.); and/or labeling and interpreting literary devices (metaphor, simile, imagery, personification, symbol, alliteration, juxtaposition, inference, etc.). Annotations should include questions and comments regarding the text, connections to other texts, or personal experience that you make while reading.

● I will check and **grade** your annotations. Your annotations can look very different from one another's, but they should be engaging and thoughtful. Just highlighting or underlining text in the book is **NOT** annotating.