

SCHS Advanced Placement English Language and Composition 2026-27 Summer Assignments

Dear AP English Lang. and Comp. student,

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! This google classroom page will be used to post updates, answer questions, and allow you to view the assignments.

To prepare for a successful year, please view the following information so that you will feel much more at ease as you begin this class next school year. By accepting the google classroom page onto your account, you are acknowledging that you are aware of everything assigned on this document.

What is my teacher asking me to do this summer?

- Please read the book [*Thank You for Arguing. 4th Edition*](#) by Jay Heinrichs. The ideas in this book will give you a start on our study of rhetoric. Students who have read this book, and perhaps studied/memorized the ideas and terminology, tend to start the year with more sophisticated ideas, diction, and syntax than students who did not. And it has the potential to come out in your writing and grades.
 - If you are not able to obtain the 4th edition of the book, you can read the [first edition](#) for free. The examples will feel out of date (lots of quotes from George W. Bush) but the terms and ideas are still relevant. Any other edition will be very similar. The older the edition, the more out of date the examples may feel. But you would survive and understand all that is being articulated.
- And finally, please read **at least six** longform journalistic nonfiction articles. “Longform” means a piece of substantial length--usually something that will take you 15-30 minutes to read. “Journalistic nonfiction” means that a piece has a specific perspective, is written with voice, and is based on the author’s research and experience. Alternatively, you can also choose literary nonfiction books and write about chapters from those books. If you choose to read a book, you can fill in up to three lines for the assignment below. Choose a variety of subjects--aim for something different each time. You can find longform nonfiction about sports, technology, pop culture, fashion, politics, literature, science, music, etc. For guidance on selecting a source to use, view this [google doc](#).

What will I be asked to do after completing my readings?

- The plan is that you will have two assignments that will be given on the first day that our class meets involving the readings you were asked to complete. These assignments are shared with you right now so that you will have the ability to complete them at your leisure and not worry about the amount of work on the first day of class. However, the allure of procrastination may dictate your decision of when to begin. All I ask is that you do not complain about how quickly this will be due, as you've had the ability to work on it for months.
 - Assignment 1:

Please craft an email on a google doc that is appropriate in length for the situation where you are communicating with your teacher about a situation involving your grade. Your goal is to have the best possible outcome from the scenario from this email. **Be cautious of your tone, your ethos, and appropriately using strategies from *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs (using your google doc, highlight and leave a comment on your writing where you mention the strategy that you tried to utilize from the book and what page number you found it on).**

*Note- If you would like to know who to address this to, you can wait until you receive your schedule and edit the teacher name at this time.

Last Name A-G Scenario 1: You've been working on an essay that is due this Friday. However, earlier this week you had a field trip which caused you to miss important notes for understanding how to complete the essay, and you had practice after school everyday this week. Because of this, you've fallen behind on the essay. You know you could complete the essay, but you are concerned that it will not be your best work.

Last Name H-N Scenario 2: You are working on an assignment for AP Lang., and there was quite a bit of work that you realized that you had done before on a previous document. You wanted to reuse it so you copied and pasted a few paragraphs onto your assignment. Then you realized that you made a mistake and that you are not allowed to copy and paste anything onto an AP Lang. assignment. Your teacher will see that on your document you copied a lot of your homework and will think you were cheating.

Last Name O-T Scenario 3: You had an assignment due that weighed heavily on your grade in a class. However, you were swamped with all of your extracurricular activities and studying for other classes, causing you to forget to turn the assignment in until it was past the deadline. You know that your teacher has a hefty penalty for assignments being turned in late, and you are concerned for your grade.

Last Name U-Z Scenario 4: Your teacher gave you a grade on a major assignment that was an entire letter grade lower than you think you deserved.

- Assignment 2:
 - You will be asked to complete a template where you fill in information about each of the longform readings you have completed. Remember that if you read a book, you can fill in up to three rows of your chart based on chapters from that book. It is not a challenging template, but it asks for you to reflect ever so briefly on what you read. In this class you have to be well-read on many topics, so it's beneficial for you to practice (and for me to observe what is your gut instinct with how you interpret someone else's perspective). The template will be shared with everyone at the beginning of next school year, but for anyone looking to finish it over the summer, make a copy to edit of this [google doc](#).

See you in the fall!

- Your AP Lang. Teachers

Pleasure Reading

*Lastly, I would like to offer the following list as possible books for **pleasure reading**. If you are looking to expand your reading experiences, please consider these diverse authors and stories. Feel free to share your ideas with me, as well! Note: these are just a handful of suggestions you could read for pleasure (crazy, I know!). I haven't read them all, so let me know if you found something you like!*

Lai, Thanhha. *Butterfly Yellow*. 2019.

"In the final days of the Vietnam War, Hang takes her little brother, Linh, to the airport, determined to find a way to safety in America. Six years later, Hang is overjoyed when she reunites with Linh. But when she realizes he doesn't remember her, their family, or Vietnam, her heart is crushed."

Pitman, Gayle E. *The Stonewall Riots : Coming Out in the Streets*. 2019.

"The Riots are attributed as the spark that ignited the LGBTQ+ Movement. The author describes American gay history leading up to the Riots, the Riots themselves, and the aftermath, and includes her interviews of people involved or witnesses, including a woman who was ten at the time."

Philippe, Ben. *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager*. 2019.

When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie."

Yoon, David. *Frankly in Love*. 2019.

"High school senior Frank Li takes a risk to go after a girl his parents would never approve of, but his plans will leave him wondering if he ever really understood love--or himself--at all."

Chanani, Nidhi. *Pashmina*. 2017. Graphic novel

"Priyanka is the teenage daughter of a single mother from Calcutta who won't answer her questions about why she came to the U.S. or who Priyanka's father is... A silk pashmina in her mother's closet gives Priyanka the ability to see India, the homeland she's never visited... One work can't represent a whole subcontinent, but readers will come away with a living sense of a small part of it - and characters to care about." - Publishers Weekly starred review

Lewis, John. *March Book One*. 2013. Graphic novel

This memoir in graphic novel form tells the story of John Lewis' struggle, experience, and leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. This is Book One of Three in a series.

Tamaki, Mariko. *This One Summer*. 2014. Graphic novel

In this coming-of-age story, best friends Rose and Windy navigate friendship amid growing tensions at home, budding romance, and issues of social class.

Anderson, Natalie C. *Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday*.

Abdi is a child soldier for the Al Shabaab jihadi. His story reveals the atrocities he encounters which causes him angst-- he feels like a monster. However, he never loses hope. Heart wrenching and intense story.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *Monday's Not Coming*.

In this thriller, Jackson examines friendship, child abuse, and family relationships. In alternating chapters, the reader is immediately pulled into the angst that Claudia feels as she struggles to piece together this fragmented tale that concludes with a mind-blowing resolution of Monday's disappearance.

Ahmed, Samira. *Internment*. 2019

A terrifying, futuristic United States where Muslim-Americans are forced into internment camps, and seventeen-year-old Layla Amin must lead a revolution against complicit silence.

Khorram, Adib. *Darius the Great Is Not Okay*. 2018

Clinically-depressed Darius Kellner, a high school sophomore, travels to Iran to meet his grandparents, but it is their next-door neighbor, Sohrab, who changes his life.

Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl*. Flatiron Books. 2016. (HS)

Amanda only wants to fit in at her new school, but she is keeping a big secret. When she falls for Grant, guarded Amanda finds herself yearning to share with him everything about herself, including her previous life as Andrew.

Thomas, Angie. *On the Come Up*. 2019

Sixteen-year-old Bri hopes to become a great rapper, and after her first song goes viral for all the wrong reasons, must decide whether to sell out or face eviction with her widowed mother.

Wang, Jen. *The Prince and the Dressmaker*. 2018

When brilliant dressmaker, Frances, becomes personal tailor to Prince Sebastian, she becomes one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes Sebastian wears dresses and rules the Paris nightlife as the fabulously fashionable Lady Crystallia. Frances designs become the talk of the town, but she must remain anonymous in order to keep Sebastian's secret.

Sanchez, Erika. *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*. 2017.

"Fifteen-year-old outcast Julia Reyes longs to attend college in New York, in order to get away from the suffocating watch of her undocumented Mexican parents in Chicago. The unusual death of Julia's older sister Olga—considered the perfect child by her family—only bolsters this desire, as her parents focus their attention even more strongly on their now only child." - School Library Journal Starred Review

And some books you might miss out on from our 11th and 12th grade literature electives:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F.S. Fitzgerald
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut
- *Kindred* by Octavia Butler
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
- *The 57 Bus*, Dashka Slat