


AP English Language and Composition Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. The summer reading assignment is given to supplement your literary background as well as to deepen your exposure to non-fiction writing and themes of the course. The majority of the work in this course will consist of analyzing non-fiction language with a keen eye directed at techniques that authors use to achieve their desired tone and purpose. In turn, you will adopt these techniques to make your own writing more effective.

You will need to be signed in to your BHS account to access hyperlinks on this page.

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1. **BHS Final Four Book:** Read and complete the grade-level-based analysis on the graphic organizer for ONE of the four summer reading texts like all other BHS students. The graphic organizer is due the first day of class. You will participate in a book discussion group when you return, so if you wish to delay this reading until August that is fine.
2. **Annotating:**
 - a. Read “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer J. Adler  [how-to-mark-a-book-1.pdf](#)
 - b. Choose a text or an excerpt from a text that is between 1.5-2 pages long. It can be fiction or nonfiction. Annotate it - meaning the comments should be made ON the document. I am looking for documentation of your thinking/thought process while you read. This will be collected the first week of class. This won't be graded. I am just looking to see what you are noticing and doing while reading.
3. **Book Study: 1984.** Obtain either an electronic or paper copy of *1984*. You can come to B-302 to sign out a hardcopy.



“But if thought corrupts language, language also corrupts thought.” -George Orwell

Essential Question: What is the power of language and the language of power?

- a. Read *1984* by George Orwell and keep a dialectical journal. The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify important pieces of text and to explain their significance. You should use it to contemplate, question, clarify, and critique. It is a way to take notes using the text and to have a discussion with yourself on key points. Write a **minimum of 10 entries** that represent **all parts of the novel**. See below for more directions about the entries. You should have these ready for the second week of class.
- b. In addition, for *1984*, you must select **one** literary analysis essay written about the novel. The essay, which should be at an AP English reading level, should analyze or comment on an issue or theme of importance in the novel or on Orwell as an author. The article must not just summarize the plot. You must annotate the text, select several noteworthy quotations and be prepared to defend, challenge, or qualify the critical assessments. Avoid merely picking the first article that comes up on Google. You are encouraged to use JSTOR, Google Scholar, or the databases available through the media center website to find your literary analysis essay.

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4. **Nonfiction Excerpts:** Read and annotate the following non-fiction pieces. You should note what the intended purpose or message of the piece is and elements that help to convey or achieve that purpose. Do not worry about what specific techniques are called, just make observations about what the author is doing. Our first unit of the year is Language and Identity. As you read, consider how each author discusses their relationship to language, how it affects how others see them, and how it affects how they view themselves. Have these notes prepared by the second week of class. It is recommended that you print out hardcopies of the passages and annotate directly on them.

- “Aria: Memoir of a Childhood” by Richard Rodriguez (you do NOT need to answer the questions at the end of the pdf)  **aria.pdf**
- “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” by Gloria Anzaldua  **anzaldua_how_to_tame_a_wild_tongue.pdf**

5. **Memoir or Biography Choice Book**

Read a memoir or biography of your choosing. Complete the attached graphic organizer on the text and be prepared to turn this in on the first day of school. You can also create your own copy of the document and type your work. Do not make edits directly on this document.

 Memoir or Biography Graphic Organizer

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GUIDELINES FOR CRAFTING A DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

Directions: The word dialectic means “discussion or reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation.” You are reading the book and having a dialogue with it. In your journal, you must respond to what the author says. In the left column, write down quotations that you think are important or interesting and then respond to them in the right column. Include the page number after the quotation.

Entries should focus on tone, setting, point of view, social criticism, and themes. **Refrain from superficial commentary, vague character analysis, or personal connections to the text.** For each entry, cite the page number of the quotation and provide your written commentary/analysis for each one. Ask yourself questions like the ones below to guide you in your analysis:

1. What literary devices (called *rhetorical strategies*) does Orwell utilize, and how do they impact the text?
2. Why does Orwell want us to know this specific piece of information and why does he present it this way?
3. Why does he use a particular word? How does his diction contribute to the passage?
4. How does Orwell use sentence structure and grammar to convey his message?
5. What does Orwell want the reader to think, feel, or understand?

Here is an example of one entry:

QUOTATION	COMMENTARY
Outside, even through the shut window-pane, the world looked cold. Down in the street little eddies of wind were whirling dust and torn paper into spirals, and though the sun was shining and the sky a harsh blue, there seemed to be no colour in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere. The blackmoustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner. There was one on the house-front immediately opposite. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption said, while the dark eyes looked deep into Winston's own. (3)	<p>As the fourth paragraph of the novel, Orwell quickly establishes the setting of <i>1984</i>, focusing on the oppressive nature of the government and the fear the people live under. Words like “cold”, “harsh”, “plastered”, “gazed down”, and “commanding” enforce the feeling of limited personal freedom. Gray is the color that pervades the setting, seemingly being applied to both the environment and people.</p> <p>The “blackmoustachio'd face”, with its “dark eyes” that “looked deep into Winston's own,” contrasts this world of gray, reiterating the intrusive omnipresence of the government, as represented through their propaganda posters.</p> <p>This early passage makes us feel the way Winston does (downtrodden, hopeless). In doing so, Orwell makes the audience sympathetic towards him by helping us understand his unhappiness and the numbness he has had to develop in order to survive.</p>

You should write down your quotations and responses as you read, but your final product **must be typed**. The journal is due during the second week of school. You will be graded on the quality

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of your quotations, the quality of your interpretations, thoughtfulness about the use of literary elements by the author, and coverage of the book (quotations span the book).

NOTE: This is an individual assignment. All answers must reflect your own opinions and thoughts. Plagiarism, the passing off of another's work as one's own, or the use of AI to create or edit entries will result in a zero on the assignment. The use of guides such as SparkNotes and similar publications also constitutes plagiarism.

**The teacher reserves the right to have students resubmit unacceptable work.*