

AP Lang Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Required Reading. Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt's *The Coddling of the American Mind* (2018)—aka CotAM.

Instructions. As you read, actively annotate your copy of the book, focusing specifically on identifying and labeling all the types of evidence that the authors used in the first eleven chapters.

Your annotations should:

- Clearly label evidence types (below) directly in the margins.
- Make note of connections to current events, your own experiences, other academic subjects you've encountered.

Assessments. When school resumes, expect one or both of the following assessments:

- A multiple-choice **exam** covering key ideas, concepts, and evidence from Chapters 1–11.
- An AP-style argument **essay** based on a prompt connected to the reading.

Your annotations will be crucial for preparing effectively for these assessments.

Types of Evidence Terms

Annotate the book using the following types of evidence:

1. **Anecdotal Evidence.** Personal stories or specific individual examples provided to illustrate a point or demonstrate a particular experience vividly.
2. **Statistical Evidence.** Numerical data, statistics, percentages, graphs, or measurable figures that offer objective support and quantify claims.
3. **Testimonial Evidence.** Quotations, paraphrased statements, or opinions from experts, professionals, or authoritative sources used to lend credibility and authority to arguments.

4. **Historical Evidence.** References to historical events, periods, or contexts that provide background information, support comparisons, or help frame contemporary arguments.
 5. **Empirical Evidence.** Information derived from experiments, research studies, direct observations, or scientific investigations that provide verifiable, factual support.
 6. **Literary Evidence.** Quotations, allusions, or references to literary works, authors, or genres that enhance the argument or provide cultural or thematic depth.
 7. **Visual Evidence.** Photographs, diagrams, illustrations, charts, or other visual aids used to clarify complex ideas, reinforce arguments, or appeal directly to readers visually.
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Vocab Notecards.

Create handwritten notecards for the types of EV above as well as the following terms and concepts from CotAM:

3 untruths; anti-fragility; cognitive distortions; CBT; concept creep; safetyism; US vs THEM; identity politics; common humanity politics; marcuseanism; Bergesen witch hunts; polarization cycle; anxiety; free play; moral dependency; freedom of speech; justices: intuitive, distributive, procedural, proportional-procedural, equal-outcomes

Write concept/term on the blank side and the book's definition on the lined side.