AP English Language and Composition

Summer Reading

In preparation for the course, all students will read & THOROUGHLY annotate two books and complete eight current-event assignments. Students will be assessed on the two works during the first weeks of school and graded on their annotations which **MUST BE HAND-WRITTEN ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER, NOT IN THE BOOKS OR ON STICKY NOTES**.

The **HAND-WRITTEN** current events assignments will be due on the **first day of class.**

Students **MUST** read *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.

Students will also choose **ONE book** from the following list.

BOOK LIST

Reflections of the Revolution in France by Edmund Burke

Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Theodore Rex by Edmund Morris

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The World is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Brown: The Last Discovery of America by Richard Rodriguez

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver

In the Sanctuary of Outcasts by Neil White

Rising Tide by John M. Barry

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West by Peter Cozzens

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Students are expected to complete all reading and annotating (by hand and on separate sheets of paper) by the FIRST DAY OF CLASS and to read thoroughly and critically as each work will be the basis for in-class assessments. Students should THOROUGHLY annotate BOTH BOOKS and take notes ON BOTH BOOKS as they read. Notes and annotations may include questions, definitions of unfamiliar words, however, **most** of the annotations should **comment on author's purpose/argument, rhetorical techniques, structure, syntax, & diction**. **Annotations that are mostly questions, definitions, and/or plot notes will receive a lower score.** Annotations for each work will be graded on thoroughness and quality. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DEDUCTED 10 POINTS per day.**

Additionally, students will take a college-level comprehension TEST on *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* in the first week of school.

CURRENT EVENTS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Objective: The current events assignments will improve students' summarizing, analyzing, and grammatical skills. This weekly assignment will keep students informed about current events and societal issues and will help students on the AP exam. This assignment will also require students to work with MLA style citations.

Assignment: Over the course of the summer, you will find non-fiction newspaper or magazine articles (not internet news articles or fluffy features) to analyze. YOU WILL READ AND ANALYZE **EIGHT** articles from different weeks. The articles should be about current events or issues. **NOTICE THAT PURELY NFORMATIONAL ARTICLES WILL NOT PROVIDE FOR ENOUGH CONTENT TO ANALYZE!** Use at least two different sources (i.e. not all the pieces should come from the same newspaper or magazine). DO NOT USE SOURCES SUCH AS *USA TODAY*, *PEOPLE*, *SEVENTEEN*, BLOGS, ETC. The following are appropriate sources to use for these articles:

- Choose a magazine article, editorial, commentary or essay from reputable issues-based magazines such as *Newsweek, Time, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Atlantic Monthly, New Republic, Forbes, The Economist, The Atlantic, National Geographic, Harper's,* and *Scientific American.*

OR

- Choose a newspaper editorial or commentary/essay from reputable newspapers such as *The New York Times, The National Post, The Guardian, The Washington Post, The State, The Herald-Journal, The Post and Courier, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Miami Herald, The Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Huffington Post,* and *The Wall Street Journal*[1].

Each article you choose must have been published in the current month or the previous month.

Assignments **MUST be HAND-WRITTEN.** Most of the work in AP Lang will be hand-written, and this will prevent copy-pasting and hopefully inhibit the sharing of answers.

On the top left of the paper for each article, you will include an MLA heading.

1. On the top half of the paper in approximately 10 sentences, you will write a **summary** of the article you have read. You must include a small quote from the article in your summary (be sure to "set up" the source). A "small" quote can be words or parts of a sentence. Avoid quoting complete sentences.
    a. **DO NOT SPEND MORE THAN TEN SENTENCES ON THE SUMMARY!!!**
2. Following the summary, you will write **commentary**. This section should be **MORE THAN 20 sentences of analysis**. **Comment on** the content of the article (this is NOT summary) AND the **form/style** (*how the author says it*).
    a. In your comment on the content, you may be defending, challenging, or qualifying the author's claim/point/thesis/interpretation (The following specifics are required, especially number 3).
        i. Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:
            1. What are some of the author's best arguments? What, SPECIFICALLY, makes them good?
            2. Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
            3. Which appeals are at work, and what, specifically, creates these appeals?
    b. In your comment on the author's **form/style**, you may be commenting on the author's diction, syntax, tone, imagery, organization, figurative language, etc.
        i. Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:
            1. Is there any connotative language? Give examples and state what is connoted.
            2. What is the writer's attitude toward the subject and what, SPECIFICALLY, in the article gives you this idea?
            3. What types of sentences appear? Is there a pattern? Are there any unusually structured sentences?
            4. Is there any figurative language or sound devices? If so, give specific examples.

After the commentary, you must include **Works Cited information**, using proper **MLA format**. (As you will have only one work to cite for each article, you do not have to have your Works Cited information on a separate page.)

All **8 assignments** will be due on the first day of class. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DEDUCTED 10 POINTS per day.**

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[1] Many of these sources can be accessed online for free. Bookstores and the public library are other places to check for access to print and/or electronic versions.

* *Adapted from an assignment by Danny Lawrence, AP Instructor, Winston-Salem, NC*