11AP – English Language and Composition
Summer Assignment 2026

You will complete <u>two</u> assignments by September. This course is designed to be a comprehensive study of Language and Rhetoric. As such, a core component to the course is argumentation. The summer assignments are designed to acquaint you with sample topics/issues that are present in our world today. You have a choice, in both assignments, to explore topics of interest. Please note: Assignment #1 is due August 14th!

Assignment #1: Submit *three* responses from the NY Times Summer Reading Contest and share them with me by the end of the contest (see attachment for directions). The entries must be made over the course of 3 **separate** weeks (one submission per week). Note: it is optional to actually submit to the contest but you must submit to *me.*

**** The contest is open from June 5th – August 14th ****

- The NYT contest submissions must be shared with me *each week* you do them. Share them through Office 365/One Drive/email.
- Optional: If you choose to submit to the contest (which I hope you do!), here is an additional requirement from NYT:
  Students must compose written submissions, from start to finish, in a Google Doc and share it with us at studentchallenges@nytimes.com. Google Docs provide a version history, which will help us see your brain at work. We care about the writing process.

Email: kflood@seaford.k12.ny.us or share via One Drive: kflood

*Note: You have free access to NY Times through ClassLink and our HS Library Databases.

For access through ClassLink:

- Go to www.seaford.k12.ny.us
- Click ClassLink
- Login if prompted
- Click the High School Library folder
- Click the New York Times icon

For access through the Databases:

- Go to www.seaford.k12.ny.us
- Select High School from the Schools drop down menu
- Select Departments
- Select Library Media Center
- Click Login for Full Access (log in using your regular log in credentials)
- Enter the Passkey: **SHSLIBRARY2026**
- Click Database List A-Z
- Note the username and remote password info to log in

Assignment #2: Read a non-fiction book that presents an argument of your choosing (see attached list) and write a journal (due the first Friday of class 9/5/2026).

- The Argument book assignment due the first Friday of classes must be typed, printed and submitted to me – no late papers will be accepted. You will be expected to also submit it digitally to turnitin.com.

*Note: Many of the books on the suggested list are available in print or e-book version in our HS library. All are available through the public library or for purchase online.

#1 – New York Times Summer Reading Contest

Due by the end of the contest – August 14th

Summer Reading Contest

JUNE 5-AUG. 14, 2026

Contest



Every Friday starting on June 5, we'll post a fresh version of the question, "What got your attention in The Times this week?"

Students can then choose any New York Times article, essay, image, graph, video or podcast episode that sparks their interest and write a short response or make a short video telling us why. At the end of the week, judges from the Times newsroom will pick their favorites and we'll publish the winners.

How It Works



Choose any Times article, essay, image, graph, video or podcast episode published in 2026.



Tell us why you chose your piece ...



... in an essay of up to 1,500 characters (about 250 words)...



... OR a video of up to 90 seconds.

Contest Rules

- The contest is open to students ages 13 to 19 in middle or high school anywhere in the world.
- You can choose anything you like that was published in the print paper or on NYTimes.com in 2026.
- You can participate any or every week, but we only allow one submission per person per week.
- Written responses must be 1,500 characters (about 250 words) or fewer; video responses must be 90 seconds or fewer.
- Provide the complete URL or headline of the article you choose in your response.
- Deadline: Every Friday from June 12 to Aug. 14, 2026, at 9 a.m. Eastern.

Visit the contest page to see the full guidelines and submit.

The New York Times Learning Network

#2: Non-fiction Argument Journal

Due: First Friday of class. It will be submitted to tunitin.com once you are given the class password.

Choose a book to read from the suggested list. Email me (kflood@seaford.k12.ny.us) if you would like me to consider a book not on the list. I will get back to you ASAP for approval.

Complete the following Journal Assignment:

1. While reading the book, select 10 passages that you find significant to the argument presented (maybe it highlights the main points of the argument, maybe it is an extremely fascinating point, maybe the author was using an interesting technique to make his/her point, maybe it made you question the way you felt about the issue… etc.). Do NOT merely summarize the passage. Think about HOW the point being made helped aid the writer to make their claim(s). For each selected passage, write it out, provide the page number using MLA format, explain it and analyze its significance. Your analysis of *each* passage should be approximately 250 words.

2. After completing your journal entries, write a separate, brief personal reflection on the book, agreeing or disagreeing with the overall argument.

Suggested Titles:

If you find another title that fits the criteria, please email the title to me to approve it in advance – thanks!

Topic	Title	Author
Economy		
	Hillbilly Elegy	J.D. Vance
	The Price of Inequality	J. Stiglitz
	Who Stole the American Dream	H. Smith
	Scratch Beginnings	A. Shepard
	There Are No Children Here	A. Kotlowitz
	Bait & Switch	B. Ehrenreich
	Nickel & Dimed	B. Ehrenreich
	Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City	M. Desmond
	Our Kids: An American Dream in Crisis	R. Putnam
	The Working Poor: Invisible in America	D. Shipler
	Under the Bus: how working women are being run over	C. Fredrickson
	The American Way of Poverty: how the other half lives	S. Abramsky
	Class War: the privatization of childhood	M. Erickson
	The Long Tail: why the future of business is selling less of more	C. Anderson
	Why We Buy: the science of shopping	P. Underhill
Health		
	Fat Land	G. Critser
	Food Wars: The Global Battle of Mouths, Minds & Markets	Lang & Heasman
	Fast Food Nation	E. Schlosser
	The Omnivore's Dilemma	M. Pollan
	Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic	S. Quinones
	Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us	M. Moss
	An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back	E. Rosenthal
	American Overdose: the Opioid tragedy in three acts	C. McGreal
	The End of Overeating: taking control of the insatiable American appetite	D. Kessler
	The Age of Anxiety: a history of America's turbulent affair with tranquilizers	A. Tone
	Eating Animals	J. Safran Foer
Education		
	The Smartest Kids in the World	A. Ripley
	The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids	Robbins
	Savage Inequalities	J. Kozol
Environment		
	The Global Citizen	D. H. Meadows
	When the Rivers Run Dry: Water- The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-first Century	F. Pearce

	Uninhabitable Earth: Life after Warming	D Wallace Wells
	Hot, Flat, and Crowded Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How It Can Renew America	T. Friedman
	Who Owns the Sun: people, politics & the struggle for a solar economy	D. Berman
	The End of Oil: on the edge of a perilous new world	P. Roberts
	Whose Water Is It: the unquenchable thirst of a water-hungry world	B. McDonald & D. Jehl, Eds
	A Nation of Farmers: defeating the food crisis on American soil	S. Astyk
	The Waste Makers	V. Packard
Pharmaceutical Industry		
	Generation Rx	G. Critser
	Antidepressants and the Pharmaceutical Companies: corporate responsibilities	D. Hunter
Social Issues		
	Schoolgirls	P. Orinstein
	Reviving Ophelia 25th Anniversary Edition	M. Pipher
	Ophelia Speaks	S. Shandler
	Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?	B. D. Tatum
	Odd Girl Speaks Out	R. Simmons
	Our Boys Speak	J. Nikkah
	Manning Up	K. Hymowitz
	Between the World and Me	T. Coates
	The Beauty Myth: how images of beauty are used against women	N. Wolf
	The Wrong Prescription for women: how medicine and media create a "need" for treatments, drugs & surgery	M. McHugh & J. Chrisler
Social Trends/ Technology		
	Everything Bad is Good for You	S. Johnson
	Amusing Ourselves to Death	N. Postman
	The Lost Art of Reading	D. Ulin
	The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction	A. Jacobs
	Supercrunchers: Why Thinking-By-Numbers is the New Way to be Smart	I. Ayres
	Tipping Point	M. Gladwell
	Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other	S. Turkle
	The Happiness Effect: How Social Media is Driving a Generation to Appear Perfect at Any Cost	D. Freitas
	What to think about machines that think	J. Brockman
	So You've Been Publicly Shamed	J. Ronson
	Selfie: how we became so self-obsessed and what it's doing to us	W. Storr
	The Great Acceleration: how the world is getting faster, faster	R. Colvile

	iGen: why today's super-connected kids are growing up less rebellious, more tolerant, less happy and completely unprepared for adulthood	J. Twenge
	The Coddling of the American Mind	G. Lukianoff
Success		
	Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance	A. Duckworth
	Overachievers: the secret lives of driven kids	A. Robbins
	I Feel You: The surprising power of extreme empathy	C. Beam
	When: the scientific secrets of perfect timing	D. Pink
	Farsighted: how we make the decisions that matter the most	S. Johnson
	Quiet: the power of introverts in a world that can't stop talking	S. Cain
	Reclaiming Conversation: the power of talk in a digital age	S. Turkle
Global Issues		
	The World is Flat	T. Friedman
	We Are Displaced	M. Yousafzai
	The Opposite of Hate: a field guide to repairing our humanity	S. Kohn