Stop! Before going any further, please make sure you are enrolled in the AP English 11 Summer Project Google Classroom page. Here is the invite link:

https://classroom.google.com/c/ODY1Mjc0NTcxNTYw?cjc=glm3xis4

Important information is posted on the classroom page that is not included in this document!

AP English Language and Composition Summer Project 2026

Why are we doing this?

This project is designed to prepare you for the rich non-fiction component of AP Language and Composition. Next year's English class will focus heavily on composition skills and how the English language functions to communicate meaning to the reader. You will begin studying this independently over the summer.

NJ Standards: RI.11.1,2,3,4,6 | W.11.1,2,4,6,8

What are we doing?

You will complete the following:

- **Write an essay responding to the role AI plays in modern English classes.**

- **Write a second essay based on a prompt taken directly from the AP Language and Composition exam.**

- **Complete readings (selected by you) from *The New York Times* website.**

***The New York Times* was selected because its content is interactive, frequently updated, and written at a level that challenges students preparing for college-level work. The essays will introduce you to the types of writing assignments you will encounter next year.**

How do we do it?

Complete the following steps:

Part One:

Write a minimum 250-word essay responding to this prompt:

In the modern world, AI applications such as ChatGPT can craft English students' work—like essays and analyses—in seconds. Why then should students bother taking a class where they must write over twenty-five essays? What is the point of learning how to write if a machine can do it just as well or better?

Your response must include:

- **A clear thesis statement**
- **One or two body paragraphs**
- **Two pieces of evidence from your reading, observations, or experiences**
- **No formal concluding paragraph is necessary**
- **No citations or works cited page are required for this essay**

Submit your essay to Turnitin by July 15th. No late work will be accepted. Students who do not submit will be removed from the course.

All work must be done without AI assistance.

Responses should not exceed 300 words.

Part Two:

You will write an argumentative essay based on the prompt below. Submit this essay to turnitin by August 1st. No late work will be accepted. Any student who does not submit a complete essay will be removed from the class. Any student who uses AI to complete their response will be automatically removed from the course.

- ***For centuries, prominent thinkers have pondered the relationship between ownership and the development of self (identity), ultimately asking the question, "What does it mean to own something?" Plato argues that owning objects is detrimental to a person's character. Aristotle claims that ownership of tangible goods helps to develop moral character. Twentieth-century philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre proposes that ownership extends***

beyond objects to include intangible things as well. In Sartre's view, becoming proficient in some skill and knowing something thoroughly means that we "own" it.

- ***Think about the differing views of ownership. Then write an essay in which you explain your position on the relationship between ownership and one's view of his/her personal identity. In other words, take a clear position on the following question: How strong is the connection between things we "own" and how we view ourselves? Use appropriate evidence from your reading, experience, or observations to support your argument.***

Essay Requirements:

- **Craft a clear thesis statement near the end of a very brief introduction.**

- **Write two body paragraphs where you begin each with a clear claim/reason that substantiates your thesis.**

- **Incorporate at least two *specific and vivid* pieces of evidence into each paragraph. Your evidence should not include more than one personal example. See below for other possible sources of evidence.**

  Write in active voice; avoid vague/general language (e.g., avoid "people" without specification, "nowadays" instead use "today," and "been around").
- **Word count: 500–1000 words (do not exceed 1000).**

- **Proofread carefully. Essays with excessive errors will score poorly.**

  In AP Language and Composition, we often use the acronym CHORES to brainstorm and generate evidence for argument essay prompts like those above. Here is what CHORES stands for:

  Current Events

  History

  Outside Knowledge– This can be knowledge of a hobby or an obscure field of knowledge

  Reading–Anything you've read– either fiction or nonfiction

Experience (personal)

Science– This includes scientific principles, inventions, concepts, experiments, inventions and inventors.

Follow the structure below to craft your *body paragraphs*:

Claim/Reason

Evidence 1– make sure you describe it vividly and specifically

Commentary 1– explain how the evidence proves your reason/claim and thesis to be correct

Evidence 2–make sure you describe it vividly and specifically

Commentary 2– explain how the evidence proves your reason/claim and thesis to be correct

You can include a counter-argument refutation in your essay if you choose to, but it is not required.

You do not need a conclusion for this essay.

You will probably find the following videos to be helpful in writing this essay:

Coach Hall Writes Argument Videos

Types of Evidence for Argumentative Essays | AP Lang Q3

5 Must-Know Tips for AP Lang FRQ Essays | AP Lang Exam Tips | Coach Hall Writes

How to Write a Body Paragraph for an Argument Essay | AP Lang Q3 | Coach Hall Writes **Very Helpful**

Brainstorming Evidence for AP Lang Q3 | Class with Coach Hall | Coach Hall Writes **Very Helpful**

Part Three:

Go to nytimes.com and familiarize yourself with the site's content. The section for this project is the Opinion/Editorial (Op-Ed) section, located on the upper right-hand side of the homepage.

Instructions:

Read 10 articles from the Opinion/Editorial section and complete the following for each:

1. **Record the title, date, and author of each article.**

2. **Answer these questions:**

   A. What is the author's main argument? What do they want readers to believe, think, feel, or do?

   B. What specific evidence does the author use to support their argument? Describe at least two examples (e.g., experiences, research data, interview quotes). Paraphrase where possible to avoid plagiarism.

C. How does the author address opposing viewpoints?

D. What is the tone of the piece? Provide examples of language that reveal this tone.

E. Choose three vocabulary words you do not know or find sophisticated from each article and define them. If you know most words, choose the three most advanced words useful for SAT prep.

3. **Type your responses in a digital document and proofread carefully.**
   Part Three is due September 1st on Turnitin.com.

Plagiarism Warning:

- **If your Turnitin report shows over 25% plagiarism, you need to paraphrase better.**

- **Projects with plagiarism rates above 25% will not be accepted.**

Grading:

The summer project counts as a major test grade for the first marking period. Grading will focus on:

- **Depth and detail**
- **Mechanical quality of writing**

Typical "A" projects have roughly:

- **250 words for Part One**
- **700 words for Part Two**
- **3000 words for Part Three**

Well-written projects have minimal mechanical errors and avoid long quotes, using quotes sparingly (no more than 10 words).

Important:

Completion of this project is mandatory to remain in the AP course. If this workload is too much or if other responsibilities prevent completion, please inform your guidance counselor and drop AP English 11 immediately.

Submission Instructions for Turnitin.com:

1. **Log into or register at turnitin.com.**

2. **Join the "Summer Reading Project" class using:**

    - **Class ID: 53293460**

    - **Enrollment Key: Adams**

3. **Submit your assignments by their deadlines.**

4. **Make sure to click "submit" until you receive a digital receipt. Without a receipt, your assignment is not submitted.**

If you have questions, email me at cadams@bergenfield.org. I will respond ASAP. I am on vacation the last two weeks of August, but will be available before then.

Good luck!