

2026-2027 AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (grades 11 and 12)

Welcome to AP Language and Composition, 2026-2027!

There are several assignments for you to complete before the new school year begins.

1. **Short Research Project** that should be done before you do your summer reading in order to gain context and background on the Apartheid and South Africa.
***Please note you are being assessed on how well you research a subject using accurate and reliable sources, avoid plagiarism and AI, and properly cite your sources. You may work in groups of 2 (or 3 if someone will be left out). *Three is the maximum # of students and should reflect the work of 3 minds—meaning your research should have more citations and slides.*

Apartheid Research Presentation Assignment

Background for Reading *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

Create a **6–8 slide Canva or Google Slides presentation** explaining the history and impact of apartheid in South Africa. Your presentation should help your audience understand the historical context behind Noah's memoir.

Include the Historic context, such as:

- Definition of apartheid (1948–1994)
- Key apartheid laws and segregation policies
- Major historical events:
 - Sharpeville Massacre
 - Soweto Uprising
 - End of apartheid
- Resistance movements and protests
- Definitions of Townships, Banning, Afrikaners
- Important figures:
 - Nelson Mandela
 - Desmond Tutu
 - Stephen Biko
 - Trevor Noah
- Explanation of how apartheid affected everyday life

Research Requirements

- Use **5–7 reliable sources**
- Include **MLA in-text citations** throughout the slides
- End with a correctly formatted **MLA Works Cited** slide
- Use trusted academic or historical sources only

Grading Focus

- Historical accuracy
- Quality of research
- MLA citations
- Visual organization

2. Read the memoir **Born a Crime** by Trevor Noah and **take notes**. If you are feeling ambitious, the audiobook is great as the author reads it. You'll need the text as well to take notes.

We will use the work as a starting point at the beginning of the year to analyze ***style, mood, and tone*** in writing.

Take **notes** that relate to the questions below. You are not expected to write out formal answers to these questions. Simply think about the questions and if possible, annotate the text or provide sticky notes throughout the book with your thoughts and ideas.

* How does Noah create the emotional climate (mood) of the book? (Provide examples from the text and page numbers)

*What is interesting about the structure of the work? How does it begin, and why is the writing technique effective? What forms of **rhetoric**-the art of using language for persuasion: ethos, pathos, logos (citations)

*What is the structure of the work? How does Noah use humor to underscore a larger theme or motif? Write down sentences that intrigue you, puzzle you, shock you, or interest you.

*What is the attitude of the writer towards his subject matter? How do we know this? What parts of the work evidence tone? Why?

HINT: The **style** in writing can be defined as the way a writer writes. It is the technique that an individual author uses in their writing. It varies from author to author and depends upon one's [syntax](#), word choice, and tone. It can also be described as a "[voice](#)" readers hear when reading a writer's work. (www.literarydevices.net)