

Printable Assignment



AP English Language Summer Treasure Chest Assignment

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! One of the major goals of the AP Language and Composition Course is for the instruction to help facilitate informed citizenship. This assignment is designed to give you lots of good information for the AP Language and Composition test. There is no guarantee that anything in your **CHORES (acronym used to help you brainstorm evidence for Argument & Synthesis) treasure chest** will actually be useful for the essay questions because we really don't know what those questions will look like this year. The filled Treasure Chest should be on a [Google Doc, use separate tabs for each category](#) (here's the link with instructions if you are unfamiliar). **You will do all parts from each category- History, Reading, and Entertainment. See tabs for examples of each section.**

Due Friday, August 9th-Beginning of Class

[Rubric](#)

Expectations for responses: I'm not looking for an essay response to each section. However, I do expect a **paragraph or two response for each item.** I expect paragraphs to follow more of a MEAEAL (MEAL with more evidence and analysis) format- you need a healthy, robust response. Pay attention to your grammar; use correct capitalization and punctuation. **I will deduct a few points for lack of proofreading.** Avoid using you. I do expect you to have an MLA citation for your sources. **Type your sources in a Google Doc; it's easiest to use Citations under Tools.** Remember this is **NOT** a group assignment, so I expect your thoughtful responses to be your own. You will be turning this into a presentation when you return to school in August, so it's important that you learn to think on your own. You will also write an essay based on your book once you return to school, so be sure to take good notes.

Evidence Definition: the information, examples, or details from a text or topic that you can use to support your ideas. That does **not only include direct quotes**. It also includes **paraphrased facts, descriptions of events, or summarized ideas** that help prove your point.

H (HISTORY) (Does not have to relate to the memoir you read.)

Listen to **TWO podcast episodes** that focus on specific historical events, ensuring they are true stories produced by qualified journalists or experts. Use [MLA citation](#) for the podcast episode. Select a specific aspect of an event, such as the Dunkirk rescue mission in World War II or the Battle of Okinawa, rather than a broad overview.

Provide a 2-3 sentence summary that includes the event's dates and a brief description, along with an explanation of why you chose it. Then, write a paragraph about the key ideas or themes presented in the podcast. Discuss the significance of the event, why it should be remembered, and why the speakers chose to share this story. Your response should include clear commentary and **evidence (quotes are not required)** that highlights the broader themes of the event. What really makes it a significant event in history that should be remembered? Why are the speakers sharing this story? [Exhaustive Podcast list.](#) [Podcaster recommendations.](#) **A good response is a good paragraph that includes good commentary and evidence as to what big ideas you believe it connects with. Give me evidence sandwiched in commentary; introduce the point and then explain the whys of it.**

R (READING) Memoir

- ☐ Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
- ☐ Bragg, Rick. *All Over But for the Shoutin'*
- ☐ Krakauer, John. *Into the Wild*
- ☐ McBride, James. *The Color of Water*

- ☐ Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy*
- ☐ Wall, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*
- ☐ Wataktuki, Jeanne. *Farewell to Manzanar.*

You will do Book notes over the novel you choose. Below are five values. As you read, look for how the book relates to each of the values. Think about what the people do and believe. These are real people. **You will choose two quotes from the book that relate to the value as well as explain how the book relates to the value. Each quote should have the page number.** You might talk about how someone is trying to improve their quality of life, or what a character has done or tried to do to experience happiness. In the book, are there instances where someone seeks justice or is a victim of injustice? How do you see the individuals seeking or showing dignity? Are the people in your book free to make autonomous choices? Does someone persevere? How? Explain. **See my example at the bottom. I expect you to stretch yourself to write well and explain. Be specific. Avoid saying stuff and things.**

Values Connections: You will do a response for each value below.

Directions: Values are basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions. They help us to determine what is important to us and guide our actions. As you read, you will look for instances to relate the list of values to what is happening in your readings. **I expect that you will provide specific details to support the quotes that you provided. You should be able to explain how what is happening around that quote relates to the value. Generic responses will not receive full credit.**

List of Values:

Justice means giving each person what he or she deserves or, in more traditional terms, giving each person his or her due.

Quality of Life is defined as overall enjoyment of life: general well-being; specifically, the degree to which a person or group is healthy, comfortable, and able to enjoy the activities of daily living

Dignity is the right of a person to be valued and respected for their own sake, and to be treated ethically; the quality or state of being worthy, honored, or esteemed.

Autonomy is the ability to make your own decisions about what to do rather than being influenced by someone else or told what to do; self-determination.

Perseverance is not giving up. It is persistence and tenacity, the effort required to do something and keep doing it till the end, even if it's hard.

Below are the expectations. Your selected quotes should be embedded into your explanation. They will be used as evidence in your explanation.

Ex. **Quality of Life**. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*, the main character Jay Gatsby has been trying for the past five years to get back to some "perfect" version of his life that he believed he had when he was with Daisy. Nick believes that Gatsby felt that, "his life had been confused and disordered since then, but if could once return to a certain starting place and go over it all slowly, he could find out what that thing was..." (Fitzgerald 110). This led Gatsby to fill his world with things that he believed would lure Daisy to his home. Nick struggled to understand how, "He had waited five years and bought a mansion where he dispensed

starlight to casual moths...he half expected her to wander into one of his parties, some night but she never did,” (Fitzgerald 78). Gatsby ultimately believes that his life will be perfect if he can get back together with the first “nice girls” he had ever known and saw the fervor of the young soldiers which “increased her value in his eyes” (Fitzgerald 148-149) When Daisy finally sees his home for the first time, he is anxious to impress her and tells her how he always keeps it full of interesting people. He continues to lure Daisy by showing her all of the shirts that his personal shopper buys for him every season. He ultimately believes that his quality of life is dependent on her love for him and “repeating the past”.

R (READING) continued:

The in-class essay will focus on you relating events from the book to challenge, qualify, or refute an argument prompt. It will happen after the summer reading is turned in.

E (ENTERTAINMENT) (Does not have to relate to the memoir you read.)

A. Notes on a [Academy Award nominated film](#) BASED ON A TRUE STORY. Biopics are a great way to learn about things in history. Do not choose something “inspired by a true story” because that means they aren’t basing it on what really happened. Choose something new that you have not experienced before. Here is [a list I compiled](#).

1. Provide MLA citation at the beginning. (Example- DuVernay, Ava. Selma. Paramount Pictures, 2014.)
2. What year was the film nominated and in what category?
3. Analysis of theme- While watching, remember that you are trawling for big ideas: What is the film's theme? What ideas are expressed by the director through music, dialogue, and images on the screen? Is it relevant to today's world?

We will save C- Current Events, O- which can be observations or own experiences, and S- science or sports for another time.

Be sure to follow directions. I will take off points for not following directions.

I expect you to read and analyze these materials yourself. I expect you NOT to use AI, CliffsNotes, SparkNotes, Monarch Notes, Shmoop, PinkMonkey, or any of those “Please help me, I have a paper due” websites. It is better for you to struggle with these questions yourself. It is not a group assignment; seek your own bit of knowledge.

If you cheat on any part of this CHORES Treasure Chest and I catch you, you will lose the opportunity to enhance your knowledge and **all 150 points**.

AP Language & Composition: CHORES Treasure Chest Rubric

Category	Excellent (Full Credit)	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Pts Possible
Completion & Organization <i>How well can you follow instructions?</i>	All required sections (History, Reading, Entertainment) are completed with care; document is clearly organized with proper headings/tabs.	All sections are present but may lack full organization or clarity in formatting.	Missing sections or poorly organized; tabs/sections are confusing or incomplete.	5
History (Podcasts) -Dates of events -Length of podcast -Brief description -Why it was chosen	Two well-chosen historical podcasts with clear summaries and insightful, well-supported analysis. Shows understanding of significance and broader themes.	Summaries are mostly clear, with basic analysis. Some commentary may lack depth or clarity.	Summaries are vague or overly general; analysis is minimal, off-topic, or unclear.	40

<p>-Big ideas or conversation topics with it</p> <p>-Why should it be remembered?</p> <p>-Why did the speakers share the story?</p> <p>Citation Rules</p>				
<p>Reading (Memoir + Values Analysis)</p> <p>-Two quotes from the book that relate to the value.</p> <p>Explain how the book relates to the value.</p> <p>Each quote should have the page citation (Stevens 53).</p>	For each value, two strong embedded quotes with MLA citations. Commentary is detailed, thoughtful, and specific to the text. Analysis shows deep understanding.	Some quotes may lack clarity or embedding. Commentary is adequate but may be general or repetitive.	Quotes are poorly integrated, or commentary lacks insight and specificity. Generic or vague responses.	65
<p>Entertainment (Film Analysis)</p> <p>-What is the theme of the film? Is it relevant to today's world? What ideas are expressed by the director through music, dialogue, images on the screen?</p>	MLA citation present. Film is appropriate. Strong paragraph clearly identifies theme and uses examples from the film (dialogue, music, images) to support analysis. Quotes are not required.	Film is appropriate and paragraph addresses theme, but analysis is somewhat surface-level or lacking examples.	Theme is unclear or generic. Film is poorly chosen or analysis lacks support from the film itself.	30
<p>Grammar, Conventions, & Style</p>	Writing is polished and clear. Consistent use of proper grammar, capitalization, punctuation. No "you" or casual language.	Minor issues with proofreading, but meaning remains clear. Some informal tone or grammar slips.	Multiple errors interfere with clarity or academic tone. Lacks proofreading or effort.	10
<p>Citation & Academic Integrity</p> <p>MLA Guidelines</p>	Proper MLA citations included for podcasts, book, and film. Student shows clear understanding of citation rules.	MLA citations present but contain minor formatting errors.	Missing citations, major formatting issues, or evidence of improper borrowing from sources.	

Comments:

I. History Example

H (HISTORY) **(Does not have to relate to the memoir you read.)**

Listen to **TWO podcast episodes** that focus on specific historical events, ensuring they are true stories produced by qualified journalists or experts. Use [MLA citation](#) for the podcast episode. Select a specific aspect of an event, such as the Dunkirk rescue mission in World War II or the Battle of Okinawa, rather than a broad overview.

Provide a 2-3 sentence summary that includes the event's dates and a brief description, along with an explanation of why you chose it. Then, write a paragraph about the key ideas or themes presented in the podcast. Discuss the significance of the event, why it should be remembered, and why the speakers chose to share this story. Your response should include clear commentary and evidence that highlights the broader themes of the event. What really makes it a significant event in history that should be remembered? Why are the speakers sharing this story? [Exhaustive Podcast list](#). [Podcaster recommendations](#).

A good response is a good paragraph that includes good commentary and evidence as to what big ideas you believe it connects with. Give me evidence sandwiched in commentary; introduce the point and then explain its whys.

MLA Citation requirements: Last Name, First Name, role. "Title of the Episode." Title of Program, season, episode, Sponsor, Date, URL. Accessed Date.

Ex.

Libby, Kelley, host. "Becoming Harriet," *Following Harriet*, VPM, 22 Oct. 2019
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/becoming-harriet>. Accessed June 14, 2021.

Summary + Reason for Choosing:

In "Becoming Harriet," the first episode of *Following Harriet*, the podcast examines the early life of Harriet Tubman—born Araminta Ross in the early 1820s—and her transformation into one of the most courageous figures in American history. I chose this episode because I was interested in how Tubman's upbringing and experiences under slavery shaped her into someone willing to risk everything for freedom—not only her own, but others'.

Analysis Paragraph:

"Becoming Harriet" explores the powerful theme of transformation through resistance, revealing how Harriet Tubman's childhood trauma, spiritual strength, and forced labor contributed to her development as a leader. The episode emphasizes how Tubman was shaped by brutal conditions: being hired out as a child, suffering a severe head injury, and witnessing the sale of family members. One narrator states that Tubman was "formed in fire," a phrase that underscores her resilience and the deep injustices that forged her revolutionary spirit. This story is historically significant because it reframes Tubman not just as a hero, but as a product of a cruel system that tried—and failed—to break her. The speakers share her story to reclaim her humanity from myth and ensure her bravery is understood in the context of real suffering and survival. Remembering Tubman in this way highlights the broader themes of historical resistance, the legacy of slavery, and the importance of preserving personal histories that challenge sanitized narratives of American freedom.

II. Reading Example

R (READING) Memoir

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MLA Citation: Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. C. Scribner's Sons, 1925.

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III. Entertainment Example

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Example:

Attenborough, Richard, director. *Chaplin*. TriStar Pictures, 1993.

Chaplin was nominated for **three Academy Awards in 1993**:

- **Best Actor in a Leading Role** (Robert Downey Jr.)
- **Best Art Direction – Set Decoration**
- **Best Original Score**

Analysis of Theme:

One of the central themes of *Chaplin* is the tension between public persona and private struggle. The film explores how Charlie Chaplin, one of the most beloved comedians of the 20th century, battled deep insecurities, political persecution, and personal loss—all while creating art that made millions laugh. Director Richard Attenborough uses haunting music, black-and-white footage, and moments of silence to underscore Chaplin’s internal isolation, even at the height of his fame. For example, scenes where Chaplin watches his own films alone or receives news of exile from the U.S. highlight how his success came with painful costs. Robert Downey Jr.’s performance, combined with historical footage, reinforces how creativity and pain often coexist. This theme is still relevant today, especially in an age when celebrities are both idolized and picked apart online. The film reminds us that genius is often misunderstood, and public image can mask real vulnerability. *Chaplin* invites viewers to reflect on how society treats its artists, especially those who challenge power or speak truth through humor.

Rubric/Checklist

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Citation & Academic Integrity MLA Guidelines	Proper MLA citations included for podcasts, book, and film. Student shows clear understanding of citation rules.	MLA citations present but contain minor formatting errors.	Missing citations, major formatting issues, or evidence of improper borrowing from sources.	
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Comments: