

AP English Language and Composition 2025 Summer Reading Assignments

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Welcome to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition! This course combines a study of composition with a foundation in classic and contemporary—mostly nonfiction—readings. Enjoy your summer reading.

Part I. Read one book from this list. This will be your choice novel. Please select one which you will enjoy reading and be prepared to discuss the details during the first week of school. **You will be paired with other students who have selected the same book as you to take part in a seminar.**

NOTE: We have read the books and are confident that they will inspire you to really think!

Contemporary Nonfiction

- Either *The Outliers* or *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts* by Susan Cain
- *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol Dweck
- *Many Lives Many Masters* by Brian L. Weiss
- *Unbroken* by Lauren Hillenbrand
- *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson
- Either *A Whole New Mind* or *Drive* by Daniel Pink
- *A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierley
- *Everything Bad is Good For You* by Steven Johnson
- *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley and Malcolm X
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah
- If you have another book of equal quality you would like to read, contact the teacher you will have in the fall (email addresses are above), and he/she may be able to make an exception.

As you read, analyze the author's rhetoric and argument. **Rhetoric** is the study of effective, persuasive language use, including thinking, writing, and speaking strategies. By **argument**, we mean a set of reasons given with the aim of persuading others that an action or idea is right or wrong.

Part II. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

In addition to your choice book from the list, **you are required to read this text**. Please be sure to read the text fully and to take as many notes as you can while reading. You will be tested on the contents of this book during the second week of the semester.

Part III. Rhetorical Terms and Definitions

- ☐ Please click on the following link to see a list of rhetorical devices and their definitions. Be sure to make notecards for each of the following words, or use Quizlet to create flashcards. They will be due during the first week of school and will count as one homework grade.
 - o https://www.claytonschoools.net/cms/lib/MO01000419/Centricity/Domain/218/Rhetorical_Terms_List_Updated_11.pdf
- ☐ You will need to know each and every single one of these words/definitions to be successful in the course. Many of these will appear on assignments, quizzes, tests and the AP Exam in May. Familiarize yourself with them.
- ☐ **A test on all these terms will take place within the first few weeks of the course.**

Lastly, please be aware that this is an AP course and that you will be challenged from early on in the semester. With that being said, expect to write an essay on the first Friday of the course. We will prep you for two days on the type of essay you will be asked to write, will provide an AP rubric as a guideline, and will show you how to format the structure of your essay. The assignment will count as one essay grade.