

English 11 Advanced Placement Language & Composition

Optional Summer Assignment

The New York Times “Learning Network”

For this assignment, you will access *The New York Times*’ “Learning Network.” This section of the *Times* includes current news articles that will generate your opinions and analysis about an array of issues.

Directions for Accessing the “Learning Network”:

- 1) In your web browser, type in the following URL address:

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/category/student-opinion/>
- 2) Add this webpage to your Bookmarks or Favorites since you will be accessing this website frequently during the course of the school year.
- 3) Once on the “Student Opinion” page, you will notice questions surrounding a particular current issue. Select one topic/question that interests you. Be sure to select a topic/question that can easily create some kind of argument in your written response.
- 4) Read the short summary of the issue to help you decide whether you want to select this topic.
- 5) Underneath the picture provided, click “Related Article” to open the full article which addresses the topic/question. *The Learning Network has free access, but once you open the full article, there is a limit of ten free articles per month.*
- 6) You should read the entire article.

Your Task:

- Decide how you feel about the topic/question. Your task is to develop a position, and support it with personal observations, experiences, and textual evidence **from the full article, not the excerpt given to you. Also, do not simply answer the questions that appear at the bottom of the article.**
- Respond in 250-300 words to each topic/question. Be sure to include **THREE** pieces of textual evidence from the article in order to further your discussion and analysis.
- When you are citing directly from the article, be sure to include quotation marks, and an MLA parenthetical citation, which should identify the last name of the author after the quote. Ex. (Smith)
- Make sure you include the title and date of the piece.