

SUMMER READING: AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION 11

Hello and welcome to AP English Language and Composition, an introductory college-level *composition* course in which you will cultivate your understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts (College Board).

For your summer assignment you will have two choices of great literature to read, which I have listed below. Here are a few things for you to consider as you begin: First, don't wait to get started. Procrastination will not work to your favor, and you will struggle in the fall if you fail to read the texts well. Second, avoid Sparknotes and similar sites. Neither will they help you learn what you need to, nor will I hesitate to give you zeroes for plagiarized work, accompanied by disciplinary action. Third, you are going to be asked to read in a different, deeper way than you may have before. Use the suggested questions below to guide you as you read and annotate each text. Take more notes than you think you might need, not less.

And lastly, ENJOY. I look forward to meeting you in the fall!

*Books marked with an asterisk indicate copies you may borrow, if needed, from Monacan. Just let me know.

Sincerely,

Mr. Van Horn (tye_vanhorn@ccpsnet.net)

Part 1– Reading

1. Choose one of the following **FICTION** texts to read and annotate (see suggested guided questions below):

**The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
**To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
Notes From Underground by Fyoder Dostoevsky
**The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
**Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
**Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
The Stranger by Albert Camus

****Do NOT choose a book that you have read before. If you are taking shortcuts before class even starts and are unable to convince yourself to read a new book, AP Lang may not be the right choice for you.**

2. Read and annotate (see suggested guided questions below) a **NONFICTION** novel of **YOUR CHOICE**:

Title Suggestions: *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin, *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'd Never Do Again* by David Foster Wallace (Note: Just the unedited essay, not the whole collection), *Educated* by Tara Westover; *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner; *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

****You may choose any nonfiction novel, but make sure to choose a topic of interest!**

3. We will be completing an in-class **writing** assignment for **TEXT 1** in late August and for **TEXT 2** in early September. Below are some questions to consider as you read this summer (You are not required to answer these for a grade, but it is highly suggested you *do* answer them.):

Questions to consider while annotating: How is the text significant? What did it make you think about in a new way? What does the text say about the human condition or about how society works? Which narrators/characters do you like or dislike and why? What themes emerge as you read? Is there a quote from the text that clearly demonstrates this theme? What did you discover about yourself as you read? In what way did the text affect you? How is the book organized? What did you notice about the author's style of writing?

Finally, do some research on each author. What did you learn about him or her? What statements/**arguments** do you think he or she tries to make with his or her text? What strategies does the author use to achieve his or her purpose?

***I would suggest purchasing a notebook to begin annotations this Summer. We will be taking notes and working with terms of the day all year.

Part 2—Writing

You are to type (or only if necessary, handwrite) a letter, which you will proofread and edit **scrupulously**, and then mail back to me, care of Monacan High School before the start of school.

Specifically, address the envelope:

Tye Van Horn
Monacan High School
11501 Smoketree Drive
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Part One – Say hello. Introduce yourself (along with anything you think I should know about you).

Part Two – Tell me about your experiences reading and writing in and out of school. What are your favorite books/authors/genres? Explain what you like when you read.

Part Three - Briefly address your progress with the summer reading and the summer assignment.

Part Four – Tell me about a formative event or influence in your life. How has it shaped you?

Part Five – What are your goals for this school year? What do you hope for academically?

Edit it. Mail it. This should be in the mail by August 9th. I am excited to begin learning about you prior to the start of school.

Link to

[HOW TO SURVIVE AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION](#)

After reviewing the above document, bring any questions you have to class on day one.