

AP English Language and Composition

2025 Summer Assignment

Mrs. Rocco

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition!

I am looking forward to a productive and intellectually stimulating AP Lang course, and to getting to know all of you as readers, writers, and thinkers.

First and foremost, please enroll in our Google Classroom. Materials needed to complete the summer work will be posted there.

Google Classroom Code: `afp6nngu`

Course Overview:

AP English Language and Composition engages students in becoming “skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.” (College Board).

Summer Assignment: The following reading and writing assignments are a requirement for all students enrolled in AP English Language and Composition for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Required Reading:

1. ***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*** by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
2. **Read and Watch** “Address to the Nation on the Challenger” by Ronald Reagan and “Address to the Nation and Joint Session of Congress after 9/11” by George Bush
3. **Personal Selection:** Select a memoir of personal interest from the list below. (A memoir is a non-fiction, first person written account of events and memories from the author's real life.)
- 4.) **Rhetorical Terms** – A list is being made available to you on Google Classroom. On this list, you will find rhetorical terms, some of which you may already be familiar with. You will be assessed on this list upon your return to school. **Additionally, the terms and strategies on the list should be incorporated into your other assignments.**

****These texts may be purchased (used or new) on Amazon.com or you may consult your public library.**

****I also have limited copies which may be borrowed on a first come first served basis, but remember that these copies belong to the school and may not be written in.**

All completed summer reading assignments must be submitted by Friday, September 5th unless specifically stated otherwise in order to receive full credit. Late submissions will be penalized.

Please do not consult any outside sources. All submitted work must be a reflection of your individual ideas. Plagiarism and/or use of AI will result in an automatic zero. Academic Integrity is of the utmost importance in an AP course, failure of an assignment due to cheating/plagiarism will be

reported. This will result in a note in your file. It may also prohibit you from being accepted into any Honor Societies.

Please feel free to contact me during the summer if you have questions or concerns. My email address is: rrocco@clarkschools.org

Assignment One: *Freakonomics* (nonfiction)

“Freakonomics is a groundbreaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They set out to explore the inner workings of a crack gang, the truth about real estate agents, the secrets of the Ku Klux Klan, and much more. Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, they show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.”

In order to prepare for our Socratic Seminar on *Freakonomics* in September, you will complete the following assignment. In order to earn **full credit**, your answers **must reflect careful and thoughtful consideration of the questions**, as well as **deep insight and critical thinking**. Go beyond the surface to create thought-provoking, original responses that will spark discussion with your classmates. Remember: the more effort you put into preparing for the seminar, the more interesting it will be.

Guidelines:

- **For each question, you will create a text to world example.**
 - o Text to World – Support your answer by connecting it to history, current events, psychology, science, etc. (movie/TV connections often earn a lower score)
- Each response must be **at least 350 words** (double-spaced in 12-point font, with one-inch margins). Include a word count.

You must answer the following questions using text to world examples:

Question One: “Could any man resist the temptation of evil if he knew his acts would not be witnessed?” (page 50) (response must be at least 350 words)

Question Two:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Information is so powerful that the assumption of information, even if the information does not actually exist can have a sobering effect” (63). (response must be at least 350 words)

Writing Structure for *Freakonomics* responses:

- ❖ **Step One: Topic sentence**
- ❖ **Step Two: Context before first quote (two sentences)**
- ❖ **Step Three: Quote (integrate quote)**
- ❖ **Step Four: Analysis (at least four sentences)**
- ❖ **Step Five: Context before second quote (two sentences)**

- ❖ **Step Six: Quote (integrate quote)**
- ❖ **Step Seven: Analysis (at least four sentences)**

Grading Criteria:

- ❖ • Topic sentence presents a claim rather than a fact
- ❖ • Topic sentence advances and supports argument
- ❖ • Provides a brief context before each quote
- ❖ • Integrates each quote and provides accurate MLA citations (author's last name and page number)
- ❖ • Provides at least four sentences of analysis after each quote. Analysis directly relates to argument
- ❖ • Analysis is extensive and thought-provoking rather than literal and repetitive
- ❖ Grammar/Mechanics
 - ❖ • Avoids the use of personal pronouns (I, you, we, us)
 - ❖ • Avoids contractions
 - ❖ • Avoids the use of idiomatic expressions and clichés
 - ❖ • Varies sentence structure and diction

Note: In addition to reading Freakonomics and responding to the Socratic Seminar questions, your knowledge of the text will be assessed upon returning to school in September. It is at my discretion to choose an assessment technique (e.g. writing a formal analysis, a quiz, etc.) best suited for the class upon commencement. You are strongly advised to be familiar with the content in order to complete the various tasks awaiting you in the fall.

Assignment Two: *Presidential Addresses to the Nation (speeches and rhetoric)*

Choose three methods through which each speaker chooses to convey a particular tone to the audience. Be sure to establish what you believe that tone to be and select passages from the speech that provide evidence for your selections. You will be given a specific assignment on this information the first week of class. (No less than 350 words, MLA format, **include word count**)

***Areas you may consider focusing on: anecdote, rhetorical question, repetition, anaphora, metaphor, allusion, diction, syntax, imagery, etc.**

Assignment Three: Memoir (nonfiction) . Select a memoir of personal interest from the list below. A memoir is a non-fiction, first person written account of events and memories from the author's real life. *Memoirs (French for “memory” or “reminisce”) focus on personal experience, intimacy, and emotional truth—memoir writers often play with their memories and with real life in order to tell a good story* (masterclass.com).

Part One: Annotate the novel: Annotating is a key component of close reading. Effective annotating is both economical and consistent. **You do not need an annotation for each page of the memoir; however, your annotations must be evenly distributed throughout the novel.** Please use Post-It notes for your annotations. I will check these **annotations on the first day of school for a grade** – be sure to bring your text with you to class! **Failure to have the novel/annotations with you will result in a zero.**

Use any of the following techniques when completing your annotations for *your memoir selection*

- Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- Comment on the actions- how do they evolve?
- Comment on passages you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- Express agreement or disagreement.
- Make predictions.
- Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- Note if you experience an epiphany.
- Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.
- Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can:
 - * effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - * point of view / effect
 - * repetition of words, phrases, actions, events, patterns
 - * narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events
 - * irony
 - * contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts
 - * allusions
 - * any other figure of speech or literary device
 - * motifs or cluster ideas
 - * tone / mood
 - * imagery
 - * themes
 - * symbols

*This rubric will be used to score your annotations for your memoir selection.

Annotation Rubric:

5 The text contains many margin notes. The annotations demonstrate that the student has carefully read and considered the text's meaning and art. The margin notes serve as an outline of the text and the reader's thoughts about it. This work exceeds expectations.

4 The text contains fewer margin notes compared to the most carefully considered readings. The annotations demonstrate that the student has read and thought about the text's meaning and art. The margin notes identify important details in the text and illuminate what the reader thinks about them. This work meets expectations.

3 The text is less extensively highlighted with some margin notes and short-hand notations. The annotations demonstrate a less-than-thorough reading of the work than do the top ratings. Parts of the text's meaning and art appear unexamined. It is difficult to determine what the reader thinks about the text. This work is below expectations.

2 The reader uses some short-hand notations. There are virtually no margin notes; consequently, it is impossible to determine how thorough the reading of the text has been. This work is significantly below expectations.

1 Perhaps only highlighting is present with the occasional margin note or short-hand notation. Ultimately, there are so few marks that the text appears not to have been read completely. This work has minimal value.

Assignment Three Continued: Memoir Selection

Double Entry Journal:

Select **10 passages** from the memoir and provide commentary that focuses on why and how it spoke to you. Did it appeal to your emotions, morality, or spark critical thinking? How were you able to connect to the text and the journey of the author?

The Double Entry Journal sheet can be found on our Google Classroom.

*All citations are expected to be in proper MLA format, with page numbers.

The format for the reflections should follow the format below:

Writing Structure for *Memoir* responses:

- ❖ **Step One: Topic sentence**
- ❖ **Step Two: Context before first quote (two sentences)**
- ❖ **Step Three: Quote (integrate quote)**
- ❖ **Step Four: Analysis (at least four sentences)**

More specific directions, as well as the Double Entry Journal template page can be found on Google Classroom.

<p><i>Educated --Tara Westover</i></p>	<p><i>Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard...</i></p> <p><i>Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.</i></p>
<p><i>Know My Name--Chanel Miller</i></p>	<p><i>She was known to the world as Emily Doe when she stunned millions with a letter. Brock Turner had been sentenced to just six months in county jail after he was found sexually assaulting her on Stanford's campus. Her victim impact statement was posted on BuzzFeed, where it instantly went viral--viewed by eleven million people within four days, it was translated globally and read on the floor of Congress; it inspired changes in California law and the recall of the judge in the case. Thousands wrote to say that she had given them the courage to share their own experiences of assault for the first</i></p>

	<p>time.</p> <p><i>Know My Name will forever transform the way we think about sexual assault, challenging our beliefs about what is acceptable and speaking truth to the tumultuous reality of healing. It also introduces readers to an extraordinary writer, one whose words have already changed our world. Entwining pain, resilience, and humor, this memoir will stand as a modern classic.</i></p>
<p><i>Born a Crime--Trevor Noah</i></p>	<p><i>Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.</i></p>
<p><i>Angela's Ashes--Frank McCourt</i></p>	<p><i>"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood."</i></p> <p><i>So begins the Pulitzer Prize winning memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he</i></p>

	<p><i>drinks his wages. Yet Malachy—exasperating, irresponsible and beguiling—does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Frank lives for his father's tales of Cuchulain, who saved Ireland, and of the Angel on the Seventh Step, who brings his mother babies.</i></p>
<p><i>Kitchen Confidential--Anthony Bourdain</i></p>	<p><i>Bourdain pulls no punches in this memoir of his years in the restaurant business.</i></p> <p><i>Fans will love to return to this deliciously funny, delectably shocking banquet of wild-but-true tales of life in the culinary trade, laying out Bourdain's more than a quarter-century of drugs, sex, and haute cuisine. Including a handwritten introduction and annotations done by Bourdain about a decade after the book was originally published, this edition also features previously unpublished photos to accompany the now-classic text.</i></p>
<p><i>Prozac Nation--Elizabeth Wurtzel</i></p>	<p><i>A harrowing story of breakdowns, suicide attempts, drug therapy, and an eventual journey back to living, this poignant and often hilarious book gives voice to the high incidence of depression among America's youth.</i></p> <p><i>A collective cry for help from a generation who have come of age entrenched in the culture of divorce, economic instability, and AIDS, here is the intensely personal story of a young girl full of promise, whose mood swings have risen and fallen like the lines of a sad ballad.</i></p>
<p><i>Running with Scissors--Augusten</i></p>	<p><i>Running with Scissors is the true story</i></p>

<p><i>Burrows</i></p>	<p><i>of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her unorthodox psychiatrist who bore a striking resemblance to Santa Claus. So at the age of twelve, Burroughs found himself amidst Victorian squalor living with the doctor's bizarre family, and befriending a pedophile who resided in the backyard shed.</i></p> <p><i>The story of an outlaw childhood where rules were unheard of, and the Christmas tree stayed up all year round, where Valium was consumed like candy, and if things got dull an electroshock- therapy machine could provide entertainment.</i></p> <p><i>The funny, harrowing and bestselling account of an ordinary boy's survival under the most extraordinary circumstances.</i></p>
<p><i>Sociopath: A Memoir--Patric Gagne</i></p>	<p><i>A fascinating, revelatory memoir revealing the author's struggle to come to terms with her own sociopathy and shed light on the often maligned and misunderstood mental disorder.</i></p> <p><i>Patric Gagne realized she made others uncomfortable before she started kindergarten. Something about her caused people to react in a way she didn't understand. She suspected it was because she didn't feel things the way other kids did. Emotions like fear, guilt, and empathy eluded her. For the most part, she felt nothing. And she didn't like the way that "nothing" felt. This is the inspiring story of her journey to change her fate and how she managed to build a life full of love and hope...</i></p>

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<p><i>Glass Castle -Jeannette Walls</i></p>	<p><i>The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.</i></p> <p><i>The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.</i></p> <p><i>The Glass Castle is truly astonishing--a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.</i></p>
<p><i>Wave- Sonali Deraniyagala</i></p>	<p><i>On the morning of December 26, 2004, on the southern coast of Sri Lanka, Sonali Deraniyagala lost her parents, her husband, and her two young sons in the tsunami she miraculously survived. In this brave and searingly frank memoir, she describes those first horrifying moments and her long journey since. She has written an engrossing, unsentimental, beautifully poised account: as she struggles</i></p>

	<p><i>through the first months following the tragedy, furiously clenched against a reality that she cannot face and cannot deny; and then, over the ensuing years, as she emerges reluctantly, slowly allowing her memory to take her back through the rich and joyous life she's mourning, from her family's home in London, to the birth of her children, to the year she met her English husband at Cambridge, to her childhood in Colombo; all the while learning the difficult balance between the almost unbearable reminders of her loss and the need to keep her family, somehow, still alive within her.</i></p>
<p><i>It is your responsibility to research these titles beyond the "blurbs" provided. Many of these titles include instances of abuse, neglect, drug use, rape etc. told in explicit detail. This is an AP level course and the material here reflects such. Know your limits, and select wisely.</i></p> <p><i>All blurbs have been excerpted from goodreads.com or biography.com</i></p>	

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If you have any questions please come and see me before the end of this school year.