



Dr. Derrick Smith
Principal

CARL SANDBURG HIGH SCHOOL

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Junior Advanced Placement English Summer Reading 2026-27 Welcome to Carl Sandburg High School's English AP Program!

We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you as we journey through this course together. This Advanced Placement course will, in short, allow students the opportunity to learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue; to evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments; and to read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts¹.

Assignment A: Read the following three texts addressing mindset.

- ❖ Article 1 - [“The Best Way to Bounce Back from Any Setback”](#)
- ❖ Article 2- [“The Imperfectionists”](#) chapter from *Hidden Potential*, by Adam Grant
- ❖ Article 3- [“Why Mindset Matters”](#)

Assignment B: Because we value reading as foundational and vital to personal and academic development, this assignment is designed to engage you in the process of **selecting and reading a non-fiction book** written on a topic that interests you.

Non-fiction books “provide a single, in-depth argument on a single topic,” and “give students practice in “reading complex, extended arguments that are historically and culturally situated.” The College Board recommends that “a good way to search for possible texts is to look at *The New York Times* Nonfiction Best Seller lists,”² but you are not limited to those lists.

Excluded from your reading options are: *David and Goliath*, *Educated*, *Escape from Camp 14*, *Unbroken* or anything else assigned freshman/sophomore year.

Once you have selected a text, **read it carefully to understand the argument presented by the author.**

Both assignments should be completed by the first week of school. We will have a common assignment for all sections at the beginning of the year.

Happy Reading!

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¹ AP English Language and Composition Course and Exam Description

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