

AP Lang  
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment  
Manlius Pebble Hill School  
June 2014  
Mr. Montas

Welcome to AP Lang! I hope you're having a great summer so far, and I am very excited to guide you on this journey of studying the arts of persuasion. If you have any questions about the course or this summer assignment, don't hesitate to get in touch with me by email ([fmontas@mph.net](mailto:fmontas@mph.net)). The blog for the course is <http://mphaplang.blogspot.com/>, and there you'll find helpful information and external links. You can also find assignments and materials from the previous years by scrolling through the posts, but keep in mind key parts of the course change from year to year.

Your summer reading and writing assignment consists of three parts; you can complete them in any order. Feel free to read the summer books on an electronic reader; just be sure to annotate the readings whether you read them digitally or in print.

**Part 1:** Read and annotate *The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking*, by Edward Burger and Michael Starbird (it's short). Take note especially of parts that will be useful to you, and challenge those parts you find questionable. Write one paragraph in response to each of the five elements. This response can be an analytical response to the element, where you dissect what the authors are right or wrong about, or it can be a personal response that reflects on any challenges or practical applications the element poses for you. This writing assignment is due the first day of school, September 2. It should be written in 12 point Times, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

**Part 2** concerns your STP. (Don't be afraid.) Develop a research question for your Senior Thesis Project, and identify five sources that are relevant to your question. The research question is a question that aims to guide your research on the project. It's unlikely that you'll come up with a definitive research question this summer; we'll work on refining it in September. In developing your research question, focus on something you're curious about your topic, or a problem, an issue, within your topic. You won't be writing in general about, say, coaching lacrosse, or choral teaching, or teaching young children; you'll be writing about an issue within coaching lacrosse, choral teaching, or teaching young children. Consult the [MPH library catalog](#) or the catalog of [Syracuse University's Bird Library](#) to find your sources, and list the sources in MLA, Chicago, or APA format. (For the citation format, consult your *Pocket Style Manual* or [Purdue University's OWL](#).) This is also due the first day of school.

**Part 3:** Read and annotate at least one of the books from the list below. As you read your book(s), pay attention to the strategies the author uses to persuade you of their point, to get you, the reader, on their side. In other words, how does the author make you see what they want you to see, feel what they want you to feel, think what they want you to think? For example, does your author use humor, a friendly tone, understatement, contemporary examples, historical evidence, scientific data, appealing anecdotes, or anything else?

Bring your annotated book(s) to class on the first day of school. About a week later, on Monday,

September 8, or Tuesday, September 9 (whichever day you have class), you will write an essay about this book. (If you read more than one, you may choose which book to write about.) Be prepared to discuss the audience and purpose of your book, as well as the strategies the author uses to persuade you (whether or not they work).

The following books are readily available through Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, and other book sellers. Check their websites for summaries and reviews of the books. A number of these books are only available in hardcover. Do not hesitate to check their availability in the [Onondaga County Public Library](#) system. If a book is in the library system but isn't at your local library, you can have it sent there from another branch. Also, some page lengths might be deceiving because of the author's copious notes. So, some books that are, say, 450 pages long might have about 350 pages of text, with the rest being made up of endnotes, reference lists, the index, and so on.

Alex Bellos, *Futebol: The Brazilian Way of Life*, Rev. Updated Ed. (2014), 448 pp.

Edwidge Danticat, *Brother, I'm Dying* (2007), 288 pp.

Rachel Friedman, *The Good Girl's Guide to Getting Lost: A Memoir of Three Continents, Two Friends, and One Unexpected Adventure* (2011), 320 pp.

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer—And Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* (2010), 368 pp.

Charles Morris, *The Tycoons: How Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Jay Gould, and J. P. Morgan Invented the American Supereconomy* (2005), 400 pp.

George Packer, *The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America* (2013), 448 pp.

Stacy Schiff, *Cleopatra: A Life* (2010), 432 pp.

Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2011), 400 pp.

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, 640 pp. (2011)

Richard Wrangham, *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human* (2009), 320 pp.

Once again, if you have any questions about any part of this assignment, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Have a great summer!