

AP English Language & Composition

Summer Reading Assignment 2024

Welcome to AP Language! Please read the following carefully:

Assignment 1 *Unbroken* (Hillenbrand) ISBN-13: 978-0812974492

Read and annotate the novel and be prepared to write about it when you return to school!

Make sure you have read and annotated the book by the second week of class! You will be writing an in-class essay on a topic that pertains to the book!

****Because AP Language is considered to be a college course, please be aware that some of these novels deal with mature content. Everything will be discussed in a mature fashion that focuses on the novel's literary merit.**

Supplies for AP Language and Composition

You must have these supplies by the first day of class!

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| * pencils | * 1 ½" three-ring binder | * 6 tab/index dividers |
| * loose leaf paper | * blue, black, & red ink pens | * Post-It notes |
| * flash drive | * highlighters | |
| *OPTIONAL – box of Kleenex or paper towels | | |

Reading List (In addition to the summer reading, we potentially will read the following books over the course of the year. You do **NOT** have to read these this summer. Please don't buy these until I tell you to do so.)

1. *Just Mercy*
2. *Educated*
3. *The Crucible*
4. *The Great Gatsby*
5. *The Glass Castle*

You may purchase these at local bookstores or online. You may find cheaper copies at www.half.com

ANNOTATION GUIDELINES

You MUST annotate the book!

Read over the following guidelines before beginning the book. Annotate as thoroughly as possible.

Annotating a Text

Annotating a text, or marking the pages with notes, is an excellent, if not essential, way to make the most out of the reading you do. Annotations make it easy to find important information quickly when you look back and review a text. They help you familiarize yourself with both the content and organization of what you read. They provide a way to begin engaging ideas and issues directly through comments, questions, associations, or other reactions that occur to you as you read. In all these ways, annotating a text makes the reading process an active one, not just background for writing assignments, but an integral first step in the writing process.

Questions? Email me at lejohnson@mcssk12.org.

A well-annotated text will accomplish all of the following:

- clearly identify where in the text important ideas and information are located
- express the main ideas of a text
- trace the development of ideas/arguments throughout a text
- introduce a few of the reader's thoughts and reactions

Ideally, you should read a text through once before making major annotations. **Circle unfamiliar vocabulary or concepts.** This way, you will have a clearer idea about where major ideas and important information are in the text, and your annotating will be more efficient. A brief description and discussion of four ways of annotating a text and a sample annotated text follow:

Highlighting/Underlining

Highlighting or underlining key words and phrases or major ideas is the most common form of annotating texts. Many people use this method to make it easier to review material, especially for exams. Highlighting is also a good way of picking out specific language within a text that you may want to cite or quote in a piece of writing. However, over-reliance on highlighting is unwise for two reasons. First, there is a tendency to highlight more information than necessary, especially when done on a first reading. Second, highlighting is the least active form of annotating. Instead of being a way to begin thinking and interacting with ideas in texts, highlighting can become a postponement of that process.

On the other hand, highlighting is a useful way of marking parts of a text that you want to make notes about. And it's a good idea to highlight the words or phrases of a text that are referred to by your other annotations.

Paraphrase/Summary of Main Ideas

Going beyond locating important ideas to being able to capture their meaning through paraphrase is a way of solidifying your understanding of these ideas. It's also excellent preparation for any writing you may have to do based on your reading. A series of brief notes in the margins beside important ideas gives you a handy summary right on the pages of the text itself, and if you can take the substance of a sentence or paragraph and condense it into a few words, you should have little trouble clearly demonstrating your understanding of the ideas in question in your own writing.

Comments/Responses

You can use annotation to go beyond understanding a text's meaning and organization by noting your reactions—agreement/disagreement, questions, related personal experience, connection to ideas from other texts, class discussions, etc. This is an excellent way to begin formulating your own ideas for writing assignments based on the text or on any of the ideas it contains.