Advanced Placement Language and Composition

Kennett High School

Summer Reading 2026-2027

Required Read:

March (John Lewis and Andrew Aydin)

Reading Choices (must read 2 of the following 3):

Killers of the Flower Moon: *The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* (David Grann)

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (Bryan Stevenson)

The Devil's Highway: A True Story (Luis Alberto Urrea)

Required Assignments:

For **each** of your readings (**a total of 3**), you should complete a rhetorical analysis template (included here). You will then choose **one** of the works to write a rhetorical analysis essay of at least 1000 words (you cannot use *March* for the essay). Your analysis should explain the purpose, message, or argument of each work and then it should explain how the author's choices help them achieve their purpose or support their message or argument. Consider the following in your response:

1. Explain the rhetorical situation in your opening:
    - Speaker: the person or group that creates the text
        - *o* Sometimes there is a persona: the face or character that a speaker shows to his or her audience
    - Purpose: the goal the speaker wants to achieve
    - Audience: the listener, viewer, or reader of a text or performance
        - *o* There may be multiple audiences
    - Context: the circumstances, atmosphere, attitudes, and events surrounding the text
    - Exigence: an issue, problem, or situation that causes or prompts someone to write or speak
2. Your statement of the purpose, message, or argument is like your thesis statement. You are making an argument about what the speaker was trying to achieve.
3. Consider a closed thesis statement that lists the specific choices you will analyze.
4. Create body paragraphs that focus on how a specific choice helps support the purpose, message, or argument.
5. Have a brief conclusion that reiterates and summarizes your main points.

Name_____Period____Date_____

Rhetorical Analysis Template (Complete one for each of your summer reads)

Speaker	The author or presenter. What is known about him/her? Have they created a persona?	
Purpose	The reason behind the text. What specific thing does the author want from the audience? What is the goal they want to achieve?	
Audience	The target group or individual to whom the piece is directed. Who is the primary audience? Who may be the secondary audience? What qualities, beliefs, or values does the author assume the audience holds?	
Context	What is going on in the world as it relates to the piece and/or the writer? What is the time/place of the piece? What is this piece about?	

Exigence	What was the spark, the catalyst, which moved the speaker to write or act? How did this event impact the speaker?		
Choices	What are the moves of the writer? Consider the jobs completed by the author and the tools used to complete the jobs.	Jobs: rhetorically accurate verbs that describe a job the speaker tries to complete i.e. The author <u>contrasts</u> his position with that of the opposition.	Tools: nouns describing specific devices/tools used by the speaker to complete a job in the text i.e. metaphor, simile, diction, syntax, imagery, etc.
Appeals	What rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos) does the author use? Where? Why? What is the effect or purpose?		
Tone	What is the author's attitude toward the subject? How is the author conveying his/her message throughout the piece? Does the tone shift (w/evidence) in different sections or passages?		