



AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMER READING 2019

Welcome to AP English 11! We're delighted you've chosen to take on the challenge of this exciting and rewarding course. It's different from any English course you've ever taken before, and we will be asking a lot of you, even before the school year begins. There are **two parts** to your assignment, and while they will take some time and effort, we hope you will find the experience intellectually stimulating and engaging. The AP Language and Composition course calls for students to be "informed citizens." This objective requires you to be knowledgeable about contemporary issues, conflicts, and debates. We will examine a breadth of issues during the school year, but we also want you to gain a depth of knowledge on certain topics. **Be sure to read the directions below very carefully; you are expected to follow them exactly.** Feel free to email us if you have any questions.

PART 1 – FOLLOWING A NATIONAL ISSUE

Directions: During the summer holiday, you are required to follow **one national issue of political or social importance**. This issue must be of concern to many people and of on-going concern, debate, and discussion. Read from a **major news publications**, such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Time*, or *The Wall Street Journal*. To get the most out of this assignment, it is important to not leave it until the last week of vacation.

Once you choose an issue to follow, complete the following steps:

1. Find and print an **informational** article on a topic of interest to you. **This article must have been published in the month of JUNE.**
 - a) Type a summary of the information in your selected article (5 sentences minimum) AND an explanation of why you find the topic interesting (5 sentence minimum).
2. Find and print **two opinion** pieces on the same topic with differing/opposing views on the issue. **These articles must be published in the months of June or July AND may be from publications different than the location of the first article.**
 - a) Type a summary of each source (5 sentence minimum) AND an explanation of how the three texts complement each other or contradict each other (10 sentence minimum).
3. Find two more sources of information on the topic you are following. While these may also be articles for newspapers and magazines, try expanding your horizons with documentaries or podcasts. **These sources do not need to be published in August, but must be no earlier than June (documentaries are exempt from this rule).** Print the articles or print a screenshot of the documentary or podcast.
 - a) Type a summary of each source (5 sentences minimum) AND an explanation of how the five texts complement each other or contradict one another (10 sentence minimum).

4. Please arrive on the first day with the articles and summaries **assembled in chronological order**.
5. In addition, **have a cover sheet prepared** with your name and the topic you followed. **The cover sheet should be typed and is also due on the first day of school.**

* Consider going beyond the minimum. Success in AP Language and Composition will require that you be aware of the significant national and world issues, today.

PART 2 – PERSONAL MEMOIR

Directions: Early in the semester, we will explore the concept of Voice—a writer’s use of personal expression to reveal larger political or social truths. **Read at least one**** of the following memoirs, which should be available at local libraries or accessible elsewhere.

- *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston
- *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah
- *The Color of Water* by James McBride
- *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance
- *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor

As you read, observe the writer’s methods of expression and the larger issues the writer addresses through his or her own story. Take note of particularly meaningful passages; note the page numbers and what the author does to make that passage effective. You may consider using Post-It notes in your book, or keep a few sheets of paper tucked inside your book for ease in making notations. If you purchase the book, underline passages and make notes in the margins. **Whatever your method, record anything and everything that seems interesting, unusual, or significant in some way. Note specific statements and passages that are especially descriptive or meaningful, sections in which the writer reveals political or social truths, and any portions that raise questions for you.** In the first few days of school, you will receive a writing assignment based on this reading.

** Again, consider going beyond the minimum and reading more than one of the works listed here. Taking an Advanced English course implies an eagerness to read; moreover, we will explore passages from each of these works as part of our Voice Unit, so familiarity with the full stories will be beneficial to you.

Please join the Google Classroom that has been set up for the upcoming year: bd0e1yy

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