

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! This year we will study **rhetoric**: *how authors make their arguments in speeches and other works of nonfiction*. We'd like you to get a head start by reading two works of nonfiction this summer. **Please have the assignments below completed by the first day of school.**

STEP 1: Read *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer and one selection from the choice list on the back of this page. As you read your text, take careful notes on (1) the primary and supporting claims of Krakauer's argument and (2) supporting details from the text that support these claims. Get into the habit of taking notes on observations as you read.

STEP 2: Respond to the book you read by completing the two assignments: Format your responses like the example below

- Times New Roman, Size 12, double spacing
- On the top of your page (*not* in the header), provide the heading as described below (your name, AP Lang, *Title of Book* and date)
- Insert a creative title that is centered
- Write your assignment.

Your Name
AP Lang
<i>Title of Book</i>
Date
Creative Title

Assignment 1: *Into the Wild* – Jon Krakauer

Read Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild* as an argument – what is it he wants the reader to know, to value, or do after reading *Into the Wild*? Copies are available for loan from the English department.

In 1992, *Outside* magazine assigned Jon Krakauer to report on the death of Christopher McCandless, a privileged upper middle class young man from northern Virginia whose emaciated body was discovered in an abandoned school bus in the Alaskan wilderness. In "Author's Notes", Krakauer writes:

In trying to understand McCandless, I inevitably came to reflect on other, larger subjects as well: the grip wilderness has on American imagination, the allure high-risk activities hold for young men of a certain mind, the complicated, highly charged bond that exists between fathers and sons.

While exploring these subjects in relation to Christopher McCandless, Krakauer also writes about Gene Rosellini, John Mallon Waterman, Carl McCunn, Everette Ruess and himself. Why does he write about these men whom McCandless never met? How do they fit into Krakauer's argument about McCandless?

Assignment: Complete the rhetorical analysis of Krakauer's argument on the outline provided. Take note of McCandless's primary claim – what is it he wants the reader to know, to value, or do in regards to Christopher McCandless? (We are giving this to you – see the outline). Then list the affirmative arguments he uses to support his primary claim. For each supporting argument, give examples (plural) of evidence Krakauer offers to prove his point (remember the bolded questions above).

Assignment 2: Summer Independent Nonfiction Reading Assignment-AP Lang and Comp

For your independent reading assignment, choose and read a nonfiction book from the list below. Remember, as you read your text, take careful notes on the **A) main ideas** of particular sections or essays and on the **B) prose style** of the author. Based on your readings, you must complete the following assignments by the first day of school. You can have these two parts in the same assignment:

Part 1-Argument:

Determine author's primary claim for the text. Then select 5 significant quotations from the text that you can use to prove the author's purpose. Record the quotations (with page numbers) with a brief explanation (2 sentences) of how that each piece of text is connected to the writer's argument.

Part 2 - Style:

From your notes, record 5 other quotations that stand out to you for the author's writing techniques. These can include significant word choice, figurative language, juxtaposition, imagery or sentence structure. Record these quotations (with page numbers) with a brief analysis (2 sentences) of the author's technique in each example.

Choices for Non-Fiction Text (please choose from the list below):

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas

The Story of My Life - Helen Keller

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

Malcolm Gladwell – *The Tipping Point*

Malcolm Gladwell – *Outliers: The Story of Success*

W.E.B Du Bois – *Souls of Black Folk*

Buzz Bissenger – *Friday Night Lights*

Richard Rodriguez – *Hunger for Memory*

Joan Didion – *We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live*

Annie Dillard – *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner – *Freakonomics*

Tom Wolfe – *The Right Stuff*

Maya Angelou – *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Malala Yousafzai – *I am Malala: the Girl who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban*

Jeanette Walls – *The Glass Castle*

Steven Pinker – *Enlightenment Now: the Case of Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress*

Ta-Nehisi Coates – *Between the World and Me*

Thank you, and we look forward to an exciting year in AP Language and Composition!