

AP Language and Composition
Summer Preparation 2018
Mrs. Billings

“You shall no longer take things at second or third hand, not look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on the spectres in books. You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me, you shall listen to all sides and filter them from yourself.”

– Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

The Advanced Placement English Language course aims to inspire you to be lifelong learners (and lovers) of language! As a college level course, the content and instruction are designed both to prepare you for the rigors of the college classroom, and to help you unpack the power of words and the art of composition. Applying the words of Walt Whitman, you will uncover your own voice through active reading, thinking, writing, synthesizing, analyzing, and arguing. Works from a variety of time periods and rhetorical contexts will provide you with springboards for discussion and models for crafting your own writing. Texts and assignments will expand beyond the written word to include a multitude of media such as visual arts, graphic novels, political cartoons, photography, architecture, and advertisements.

It is essential that you take full responsibility for your education. I will provide materials and opportunities, but as independent, focused individuals you will have to make the most of these resources, and often determine in which direction the course will run.

Students who complete this course are expected to take the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

Please keep your summer reading assignments in a one subject notebook if you are writing by hand; if you choose to type your assignments, submit them in a folder. Continue to collect all typed writing assignments in your **English writing folder on Google Drive**.

- Your summer work will count heavily toward Q1 and lay a foundation for the course.
- All assignments must be with you on the first day of class in September 2018.
- Late work will receive partial credit.

You will find your summer reading assignments on the next page. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jbillings@achs.net over the summer. I will respond as soon as possible.

SUMMER READING

Part 1: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

Keep a dialectical journal for the novel. *Dialectical* means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments” (dictionary.com). A dialectical journal, then, is used to arrive at the truth of a text by engaging in conversation with the written work itself.

As you read, note 10 passages that stand out -- any 10 passages -- you can't be wrong here! Divide your paper into two columns. In the left-hand column of your paper, record the sentence(s) or passage of your choice. Write out the entire quote; include page numbers. In the right-hand column, write a two-fold critical response. **Part 1:** Capture your first response. **Part 2:** Consider the language landscape -- things like surface features, sentence structure and style.

As you engage with the text, you might.....

ask questions	make judgements	analyze the writer's use of specific language
connect to real life	draw inferences	note the purpose and effect of rhetorical devices
develop insights	compare and contrast	connect to other works of literature
draw conclusions	predict consequences	

Part 2: *On Writing*, Stephen King

“I want to suggest that to write to your best abilities, it behooves you to construct your own toolbox and then build up enough muscle so you can carry it with you. Then, instead of looking at a hard job and getting discouraged, you will perhaps seize the correct tool and get immediately to work”

--Stephen King

Part 1. Read King's memoir. Underline any sentences or passages that strike you. He offers a lot of really good advice that you may find valuable! Check out these little gems:

http://selectedreads.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/10-writing-tips_22378461.pdf

Part 2. A Literacy Narrative is a popular way for writers to talk about their relationship with reading, speaking, and writing. Many literacy narratives have been written and published by famous writers to help their audience get to know them. It is also commonly used as a first assignment for college composition courses (Owlcation.com).

Write your own literacy narrative in which you reflect on your relationship with reading and writing. Stephen King's memoir as well as the two links provided here will be useful. The only criteria: Your literacy narrative should be 2 -- 4 pages typed, double-spaced.

<https://hobbylark.com/writing/How-to-Write-a-Literacy-Narrative>
<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Write-a-Good-Literacy-Narrative>

