

*“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*

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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 2017.
- Late work will receive partial credit.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [jbillings@achs.net](mailto:jbillings@achs.net) over the summer. I will respond as soon as possible.

You will find your summer reading assignments on the next two pages. >>>>>>>>

**SUMMER READING Part 1: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 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 20 passages that stand out.

Divide your paper into two columns. In the left-hand column of your paper, record a meaningful quote. Write out the entire quote; include page numbers. In the right-hand column, write a two-fold critical response. It is always best to capture your first response, and then shift into surface features and analysis.

Your thinking might include:

- making judgements
- asking questions
- analyzing the writer’s use of specific language (i.e. surface features)
- noting the purpose and effect of rhetorical devices
- connecting to real life
- connecting to other works of literature
- drawing inferences
- developing insights
- comparing and contrasting
- drawing conclusions
- predicting consequences

Continued >>>>>>>>>>

## **SUMMER READING Part 2: Essay Collection**

Read pp. 44 -- 56 for a review of close reading and annotating. Then, **read and annotate** the essays listed here. Unless otherwise noted, you will find the essays in your course text, *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*, Second Edition. You may purchase the text through MBS.

- Emerson, from “Education” p. 189
- Prose, “I Know Why the Caged bird Cannot Read” p. 176
- Baldwin, “A Talk to Teachers” p. 197
- Alexie, “The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me” p. 215
- Talbot, “Best in Class” p. 223
- Chast, “What I Learned: A Sentimental Education” p. 243
- Mehl, et al., “Are Women Really More Talkative Than Men?” p. 557
- Orwell, “Politics and the English Language” p. 707
- Whitman, “Slang in America” p. 720
- Pinker, “Words Don’t Mean What They Mean” p. 745
- Emerson, “Nature” p.897
- Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience” p. 1016
- Wallace, “This is Water” watch on Youtube  
<https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-Lkry-newtab&hsimp=yhs-newtab&hspart=Lkry&p=this+is+water#id=2&vid=9c643edc8132e8344e43623350a6832d&action=view>

## **SUMMER READING Part 3: The Elements of Style, Strunk and White**

Download the attachment onto your iPad. Read and take notes.

