

AP Lang Summer Assignment 2024

Welcome to AP Language and Rhetoric! Next year we will embark on a journey to better understand how people use language to communicate their ideas and convince others that they have a strong message. We will be closely analyzing passages for rhetorical strategies, creating our own arguments, and synthesizing information in order to solve problems. This is a wonderful class and I am excited to begin.

This summer, you need to do some prep work so that we can start right away at the beginning of the school year. The goal of the summer work is to create a springboard for our thinking over the school year. The more effort and time you put into the summer work, the more success you will get out of the process. Each of the assignments are like introductions to the different types of work we do during the school year. You do not need to do the assignments in any particular order, even though they are numbered.

1. Read *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell. This is a collection of essays about how sometimes disadvantages might actually work to a person's benefit. Each chapter outlines a different situation – after reading the book, find two articles that refute or support Gladwell's arguments about one of his topics. Write a 2-3 page reflection about the topic and what you found out in your search. The goal of the work is to build your own synthesis between the book and selected articles to convey a specific conclusion. Please have copies of the articles in class with you for the beginning of the year.
2. Read the following articles. After reading the articles, pick one quote from each that you believe encapsulates the thesis of the passage. Add a small reflection about that quote as well as your reaction to the article. The goal is to compare and contrast your own thoughts about the topic in relation to the author's argument and main ideas.
 - a. "What Straight A Students Get Wrong" Adam Grant
 - b. "The Two Types of Secrets" Ally Carter
 - c. "On Self-Respect" Joan Didion
3. Read *Educated* by Tara Westover. This memoir follows Westover's experience living in and overcoming from her survivalist Mormon upbringing in order to go to college and establish her own individual identity. After reading, pick one of the chapters to analyze in-depth. Your essay should be about two pages and include at least two quotes if not more. The goal of the analysis is to determine Westover's purpose in writing as well as recognize some of the writing strategies she uses to communicate her point of view.
4. Review the words in this vocab list: https://quizlet.com/_ddlx8t?x=1qqt&i=h98km AP lang is NOT about only memorizing vocab and obscure literary devices HOWEVER it will help you to have some ideas of choices used by writers in their arguments. There will not be a quiz or test on these right in the beginning of the year, but we will sprinkle these vocab words in quizzes throughout the year. You should try to review them from time to time over the summer so you have some basis of understanding for rhetoric. The goal is for you to become familiar with words that will be helpful to you throughout the course.

Other things that will help you but are not required:

- Read nonfiction texts over the summer. I will be reading a couple of non-fiction narratives this summer to prepare, and I suggest you do the same. The more you read, the better your writing will be.
- Watch/read/listen to the news. Try to consume from different organizations not just the one your parents use. See how the same story is presented by different news organizations. Try to be up on current events. This will help with the argument.
- GIVE YOURSELF TIME – I know this is contradictory, but go outside, go to the beach, and hang out with friends. Part of your argument prompt asks you to recall experiences – so have experiences! If you prefer to read fiction – read fiction! Any reading you do this summer will help. The summer should be fun! Junior year can feel really overwhelming so soak up some relaxation, so you are ready to rock in September.