

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignments

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Students are required to complete the following three assignments. All of these assignments combined will comprise the first of several test grades of the marking period, so be sure to attend to them in a timely and organized manner. Any assignment turned in after the due date will start at a 70.

Note that while assignment due dates are staggered, it would be wise to finish everything before school starts.

Summer Assignment #1- Due August 20

Turn in through Google classroom.

Write an argumentative essay in response to the following prompt:

*The following passage is from *Rights of Man*, a book written by pamphleteer Thomas Paine in 1791. Born in England, Paine was an intellectual, a revolutionary, and a supporter of American independence from England. Read the passage carefully. Then write an essay that examines the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. Use appropriate evidence to support your argument.*

"If there is a country in the world, where concord, according to common calculation, would be least expected, it is American. Made up, as it is, of people from different nations, accustomed to different forms and habits of government, speaking different languages, and more different in their modes of worship, it would appear that the union of such a people was impracticable; but by the simple operation of constructing a government on the principles of society and the rights of man, every difficulty retires, and all the parts are brought into cordial unison. There, the poor are not oppressed, the rich are not privileged.... Their taxes are few, because their government is just; and as there is nothing to render them wretched, there is nothing to engender riots and tumults."

Summer Assignment #2- Due August 27

Bring novel & journal to class.

Purchase and read a copy of Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*. This is the first novel we will use for in class discussion. You will want to read actively, marking the text as you go.

For the novel (to prepare for class discussion), do the following:

1. For each chapter, write a rhetorical precis.
2. Create a double entry journal for the novel. For each chapter create 3-4 journal entries reflecting on the author's craft and the content of the novel. The left side of your journal should contain quotes from the novel; the right side should contain your reflections/ thoughts on Gladwell's assertions.

3. You will take a test on this novel on August 28. You will be able to use your book. Annotating the text thoroughly will be Uber-helpful for he test.

The book can be purchased at any book store or online at Amazon.com (\$12.50). A good place to find used copies is at Mr. K's by Tanger. All of last year's AP Lang kids also own this book! Borrow one if you need to do so.

A thought about active reading:

"There are two ways in which one can own a book. The first is the property right you establish by paying for it, just as you pay for clothes and furniture. But this act of purchase is only the prelude to possession. **Full ownership comes only when you have made it a part of yourself, and the best way to make yourself a part of it is by writing in it.**"

Mortimer Adler *How to Mark a Book*

Summer Assignment #3- due Sept. 4

Turn in through Google classroom

Listen to 10 Podcast episodes or watch 10 TED Talks—or do a combination of both. Choose well--the goal here is to broaden your knowledge of the world around you. Choose Podcasts &/or TED Talks that teach/ instruct/ illuminate.

Great Podcasts:

Citizen Radio

This American Life

Radio Science Friday

Revisionist History

Freakonomics

Sawbones

99% Invisible

Stuff You Should Know

Amazing TED Talks (more can be found at TED.com):

The Danger of a Single Story

Every Kid Deserves a Champion

High School Training Ground

A Powerful Poem About What It Feels Like to Be Transgender

A Guerrilla Gardner in South Central LA

Three Ways to Speak English

My Son Was A Columbine Shooter

How We're Priming Some Kids for College & Others For Prison

Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator

For each Podcast/TED Talk, complete the following assignment:

1. Complete an MLA citation.
2. Write a rhetorical précis (pronounces pray-see).
3. Write a personal reflection paragraph. [agree, disagree, comment on the work]- this should be 7-10 sentences in length. If you don't have anything to say about the work, then you didn't choose well.

The Rhetorical Précis: A Rhetorical Précis is a highly structured four-sentence paragraph that records and describes the essential elements of an essay, including: the name of the speaker/writer, the context of the delivery, the major assertion, the mode of development and/or support, the stated

and/or apparent purpose, and the relationship established between the speaker/writer and the audience. Each of the four sentences requires specific information. **You are also encouraged to integrate brief quotations from the text to convey a sense of style and tone.**

Each sentence of the paragraph should contain the following information:

FIRST SENTENCE: This should contain name of the author(s) [optional: a phrase describing the author(s)], genre, title of work, and publishing date in parenthesis; a rhetorically accurate verb (such as "asserts," "argues," "suggests," "implies," "claims," etc.); and a "that" clause containing the major assertion (thesis statement) of the work. Think of it this way: WHO is the author talking about? WHAT is his or her background? WHAT did he or she write? WHAT year was it published? WHAT is the author's point?

SECOND SENTENCE: This should be an explanation of the evidence and development the author uses to support the thesis, usually in chronological order. Think of it this way: HOW does he or she prove the thesis — through interviews; official data; other outside sources; anecdotes?

THIRD SENTENCE: This should be a statement of the author's apparent purpose (authorial intent) followed by an "in order to" phrase. Think of it this way: is he or she trying to entertain you; trying to persuade you to feel a certain way; trying to change your mind about an issue? Is he or she trying to inform you – sharing information that teaches? WHY is that the author's purpose; in order to accomplish what?

FOURTH SENTENCE: This should be a description of the intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes with the audience. Think of it this way: WHO is the author trying to address? For example, is he or she talking to teachers, or parents, or senior citizens, or Latinos, or Muslims, or registered voters? It could be anyone. You need to determine if the audience is addressed formally (through use of academic language, proper English) or informally (a more conversational tone, use of slang, etc.) and in what TONE.

Here is a sample Rhetorical Précis:

In the article “End Homework Now” (2001), Etta Kralovec and John Buell claim that the practice of assigning homework is not an effective teaching method because its negative effects outweigh its benefits. Kralovec and Buell support their claims by providing examples of how homework disrupts families, overburdens children, and limits learning; and while dispelling myths about the benefits of homework, the authors provide alternative practices that would lead to improvement in student achievement. The authors’ purpose is to make the reader question a practice that is a trademark of the U.S. education system and decide whether it is conducive to creating a “smarter” student. They speak emphatically to the entire educational community: administrators, teachers, students, and parents.