

AP Language Summer Work

Welcome to AP Language and Composition!

Below is the summer assignment that will be collected on the first day of school. We will build the year off of the topics discussed.

Why are you doing summer work?

You have decided to enter an Advanced Placement class. This means you will be challenged to complete a level of work similar to that of a first year college student. Also, this work will help stop the inevitable learning loss that happens in summer so that you feel prepared to be challenged. This work will also help your teacher get to know your strengths and weaknesses coming into the class. It allows us to tailor our teaching to your actual needs and get to know you as a person.

What are you being asked to do?

Demonstrate your strengths and weaknesses in writing and rhetoric. Become familiar with basic concepts that will be constantly used in the class and on the AP test. You are also being asked to introduce who you are and your goals in taking an AP class.

How will you do this?

You will create a letter of introduction to explain exactly why you want to be in this class.

You will read a short non-fiction selection and complete a memoir project to help your teachers get to know you. You will read a non-fiction book and use the content to analyze the media in your life. Using the content of the book you will critically think about the tricks media uses and ways that you can see through the manipulation.

How will you know that you have accomplished these goals?

Turning in the completed summer work on the first day of school. You will also be writing an essay based off of the information you have read to demonstrate your understanding.

Part 1: Letter of Introduction

1. Write a one-page letter to your AP teachers; tell us the reasons that you chose to take AP English Language and Composition.
 - Do not start off by writing, "I chose to take this class because..." No! You are now AP students and we expect thoughtful, original and cogent responses to this topic. It must be typed and brought to class the 1st day of school. Remember that this letter will be your teacher's first impression of you as a writer, as a thinker, and as a student! Must be between 500-750 words typed.

Part 2: Memoir

1. Read the short essay “The Stranger in the Photo is Me” by Donald M. Murray and nnotate it for figurative language and rhetorical appeals.
2. Answer the following three questions in two to three paragraphs each. Make sure to support your analysis with quotes.
 - a. Exigence: What has compelled this author to write?
 - b. Audience: To whom is this author writing or speaking?
 - c. Purpose: What effect does the author hope to have on his audience?
3. Create a memoir.
 - a. Look at the earliest pictures of yourself that you have. What do you remember? How would you describe yourself?
 - b. Choose three significant pictures. Write about them in the same style that Murray uses in his essay. Make sure to explain what the pictures depict and also how they represent the stranger who you see when you look at them. Each explanation needs to be 350-500 words typed.

Part 3: Non-Fiction Analysis

Find a copy of the book “unSpun:Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation” by Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson.

Places to get the book:

- Amazon - \$3-10 dollars depending on shipping.
- Barnes and Noble.com - \$3-7 dollars depending on shipping.
- AbeBooks.com - \$3-5 dollars
- Local Library, but make sure that you get it early before someone else does

While reading or after reading the book, do the following:

1. Create a study guide of the lessons and points that were explained in the book.
2. Apply the falsehoods and reasoning to the Trump Campaign. Explanation should be 500-750 words.
3. Find and write about three of the “Warning Signs” and how they apply to a specific a, commercial, article, etc. Each explanation needs to be 300-500 words.
4. Find and write about three “Tricks” that you see appearing in a specific a, commercial, article, etc. Each explanation needs to be 300-500 words.
5. Talk about a specific time you fell for one of the strategies discussed in chapter 4 or 5. Describe what happened and what you learned if anything. Needs to be 300-500 words.
6. Choose a lesson or rule that you think is most important from Chapters 6-8. Explain what it is and why it is the most important to you. This needs to be 300-500 words.