

## AP English Language & Composition — Summer Work (2023)

Welcome to **AP English Language and Composition**. We are looking forward to having you in class -- a new and exciting adventure awaits us all! Below are the summer work assignments you are required to complete. Please remember that this is a college-level class so **you are expected to be self-motivated, self-disciplined, mature\*, focused, and hard-working; otherwise, this may not be the right class for you.**

\*A note from College Board: Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including but not limited to references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed in texts that are appropriate for the AP English Language and Composition course. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material. Since AP students have chosen a program that directly involves them in college-level work, participation in this course depends on a level of maturity...

### ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Watch a documentary film of your choice & take notes**
- **Choose one nonfiction book from the list below to read & annotate/take notes.**
  - *Brothers on Three: A True Story of Family, Resistance, and Hope on a Reservation in Montana* by Abe Streep
  - *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner
  - *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
  - *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
  - *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson
  - *Educated* by Tara Westover
  - *Red Azalea* by Anchee Min
  - *Gorilla and the Bird* by Zack McDermott
  - *Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* by Amitov Ghosh
  - *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
  - *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo
  - *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
  - *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis
  - *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer
  - *Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America* by Maria Hinojosa

Scan the QR code to learn more about each book:



### \*\*Frequently Asked Questions\*\*

→ **What should I do for the documentary film?**

Find and watch a **documentary** that interests you. There are many titles available on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc. As you are watching the documentary, jot down **notes about the film**. You will be asked to present your observations in front of the class upon returning. You will give a summary/overview of the documentary, as well as the **purpose of the film**, the **audience** to whom it is geared, and the **strategies used to reach that audience**. Also, think about why this documentary was made – **why was it important to create and produce this film** – as well as **why you thought this was a good choice to watch**.

## → What should I do with the book from the list?

You are required to engage with the text and make note of meaningful quotes/passages in the margins of the book. Annotating is an important habit you need to learn as part of your reading and one we will be doing quite a lot this year. We want you to read the books and be able to engage in meaningful conversation and analysis when you return in August.

**Write in the margins, and mark passages that you find interesting, exciting, or confusing, or that you really like. DO NOT USE A HIGHLIGHTER – Use a pen/pencil.** You should engage with the text and annotate along the way. We highly recommend buying a copy of the book so you can directly annotate in the book itself; however, if that is not possible you should use sticky notes and take **detailed notes by hand (no typing)**

**Approach a text as if you were entering into a discussion with it.** While a text cannot literally speak, its written words, images, and phrases do indeed communicate. At certain points, a particular text's meaning may be clear, while at other points it may be unclear. Either way, you can note such encounters and offer comments. **Your discussion with a text occurs as you initially engage with and subsequently think over its words, phrases, and ideas. These thoughts can find their way onto the text's margins and between the lines.** As you underline telling phrases, note ideas, link portions of the text, and raise issues and questions around particular observations, you establish a written record of your interactive discussion. After annotation, you will be better able to identify the text's message and discern both its purpose and argument.

### Here are some questions to guide your annotations:

- What's remarkable?
- Where do you engage with this text?
- Where do particular claims, ideas or assertions pull you in or capture your attention?
- What arguments take shape in or emerge from this text?
- What do you think the purpose of this book is? Is there a particular message conveyed?
- What language or rhetorical features are at work?
- Do any patterns emerge from your markings?
- Do particular portions of this text link or connect with each other?
- Do key words, phrases, and ideas crop up in several places?
- Have you asked questions? How have you answered them?
- Given multiple readings, how have your annotations changed?
- Have any questions been answered? Have any new questions emerged?
- When you review your annotations, what do you discover?
- Are there places where the author's message is made clear?
- Are there segments that continue to puzzle or vex you?
- Can you link this text with others you have read?

## → What should I have for the first day of class? Will you be checking or collecting any of the work we did over the summer?

For the first day of class, you need a **notebook, pen**, all your summer work **notes from the book & documentary**, and your **copy of the book from the list** (if you have your own). If, on the first day of class, you do not have your work, or you are not prepared, you may not be able to continue with this class. **This work must be done for the very first day of school.** We will ask to see all your work and you will be engaged in writing about the summer work as well as completing projects related to the materials you read and watched.