

# AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

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**ASSIGNMENT #1:** This summer you will focus your reading and thinking on a nonfiction text. *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenrich synthesizes information to make an argument that “opens a window into the daily lives of the invisible workforce that fuels the service economy, and endows the men and women who populate it with the honor that is often lacking on the job. And it forces the reader to realize that all the good-news talk about welfare reform masks a harsher reality” (Katherine Newman, *The Washington Post*).

**A central focus of A.P. Language is its insistence that all writing is, one way or another, an argument. To successfully fulfill your summer reading assignment, take notes and address the following.**

1. Determine the writer’s thesis.
2. Discern the **reasons, evidence** and **rhetorical strategies** the writer uses to support, elaborate, and convey her argument(s). *To accomplish this, note instances in each chapter where you see the author making a claim, providing an example, or using rhetorical choices (diction, tone, detail, imagery, figurative language, etc.) to best communicate her argument(s).*
3. ***It is expected that any unfamiliar language or references will be researched as you read.*** This is the hallmark of an advanced and active reader.

**In your first few weeks back, you will be asked to:**

- 1) Respond to an on-demand writing prompt that focuses on the book. You will not be given the prompt ahead of time, and you must complete the essay in class. This assessment will be used to determine your current level of thinking and writing.
- 2) Participate in a formal discussion of the text.
- 3) Explain how at least **ONE** of your noted rhetorical choices helped to convey the writer’s argument.
- 4) Be ready to respond to the claims asserted by the writer by agreeing with, disagreeing with, or qualifying her assertions.

**ASSIGNMENT #2:** In addition to reading *Nickeled and Dimed*, you must follow an on-going global OR local news story throughout the summer (***dates of publication must fall during our summer vacation -- June 22-August 30***), collecting VARIOUS sources along the way that represent a RANGE of biases, viewpoints, and purposes.

**You must:**

- collect **AT LEAST 7, DATED sources**, which may include print, video, audio, or graphics (audio and video sources MUST be accompanied by a transcript).
- have at **LEAST TWO SOURCES** capturing opposing viewpoints that you **DO NOT** necessarily share.
- compile all sources in **ONE** folder in your Google Drive.
- **develop your own ideas and opinions about the subject matter.**