

Public Schools of Edison Township
AP Language and Composition
Study Guide for Summer Reading

“Don't raise your voice, improve your argument.” -Desmond Tutu

Directions for Reading:

For your summer reading assignment, you are expected to read the following texts:

Thank You for Arguing (Revised and Updated, 2020) by Jay Heinrichs

Leaders Eat Last (Revised edition, 2017) by Simon Sinek

Read *Thank You for Arguing* **first** so that you can apply the skills and concepts learned from the text to consider *Leaders Eat Last* through Heinrichs' approach to argument.

As you read *Thank You for Arguing*, take notes that outline the main points of each of the 30 chapters. These notes should be formatted for personal use (you may choose from a t-chart, Cornell notes, bullets, outline, etc.); therefore, they should be structured to be a useful tool referenced throughout the course.

Your notes should be comprehensive, demonstrating engagement with the text while avoiding unnecessary lengthiness.

Read *Leaders Eat Last* **second** reflecting on the argument skills used in the depiction of leaders and bookmarking potential passages for use in your written response.

Directions for Writing:

You will type a two-three page, MLA-formatted written response for one of the prompts below.

In your response, use information from Sinek's *Leaders Eat Last* and argument skills in Heinrichs' *Thank You for Arguing*.

Option 1: Consider the distinct perspectives expressed in the following statements. American educator William Lyon Phelps (1865-1943) said, “If you develop the absolute sense of certainty that powerful beliefs provide, then you can get yourself to accomplish virtually anything, including those things that other people are certain are impossible.” On the other hand, British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872–1970) said, “I think we ought always to entertain our opinions with some measure of doubt. I shouldn't wish people dogmatically to believe any philosophy, not even mine.” In a well-written response, argue your position on the extent to which certainty and/or doubt pertain to leadership.

Option 2: American essayist and social critic H. L. Mencken (1880–1956) wrote, “The average man does not want to be free. He simply wants to be safe.” In a well-written response, argue your position on the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to leadership.

Directions for Submission:

Come to the first day of class with the following:

- Both books read
- Notes on *Thank You for Arguing*
- One written response

Please note, your digital submission is subject to an originality report.