

## AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

**Read 10 magazine articles or newspaper editorials** from sources such as *Newsweek*, *Time*, or *The St. Petersburg Times* that cover current social issues. Do not use questionable sources such as *The Enquirer* or other “supermarket tabloids”. (Note-you may use newspaper editorials – not daily news events or letters to the editor.)

Make a copy of the entire magazine article or newspaper editorial noting the source and the date of publication. (You may go back and use articles published within 2011 if you wish.)

Answer the following questions as they apply to the article or editorial (numbers 1-10). **Provide specific examples and quotes to prove your points**. Do not reply in an essay format.

1. What is the main purpose of the article? What is the author’s intent? What is the author trying to accomplish?
2. What is the author’s point of view?
3. The most important information in the article is \_\_\_\_\_. Identify the key information used to support the main arguments.
4. What assumptions does the author make in the reasoning?  
In other words, what is the author taking for granted? The assumptions are generalizations that the author does not think need to be defended within the context of the article, and they are usually unstated. For example, if the article discusses the need to strengthen the laws regulating development in sensitive environmental areas, the author may assume that you, the reader, agree that nature should be protected, and not go into basic detail about why nature needs to be protected.
5. What are the implications or the conclusions of the author’s reasoning? What is the likely result the author foresees?
6. Does the author present other points of view?
7. What is the author’s tone (attitude)? (The author’s choice of words helps to convey tone.)
8. Does the author use imagery? Similes? Metaphors? Symbols? Allusions? Irony? Does the author appeal to your emotions, ethics, or logic?
9. Find 3-5 words within the article that you are uncertain of the precise definition. Copy the sentence the word is used in (or copy a portion of it if it is extremely lengthy). Look up and write out the dictionary definition for the word as it is used within the context of the article.
10. How effective is this article? Do you believe the author has accomplished his/her goal? As you think about the answer to this question, consider the following:
  - Does the author provide precise, relevant support and stay on topic?
  - Is the author consistent or contradictory?
  - Does the author show how complex the issue is?
  - Or is the author just being trivial and shallow?
  - Is the author’s reasoning accurate?