

**Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
Summer Assignment
For Fall 2015**

The English course you have registered to take next year is a challenging one, designed for highly motivated and highly capable students who are interested in pursuing potential college credit for doing college-level work in high school.

The primary purpose of the AP English courses is to give students a complex reading and writing course which prepares them to encounter sophisticated texts with confidence, independence, and creativity. The course centers on the rhetoric of texts, primarily nonfiction.

According to the AP Central website: What makes AP English Language and Composition different from other high school English courses is its focus on rhetoric. While promoting writing in many contexts for a variety of purposes, the English Language course is the place where nonfiction texts and contexts take center stage. Here students think deeply about language as a persuasive tool and about the dynamic relationship of writer, context, audience, and argument. (AP Central/CollegeBoard.com).

The following assignments are due on the first day of class in the fall, August 24, 2015. If you have any questions or problems over the summer, please feel free to email Dr. Brown at bchronin@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Assignments

All responses should be typed, double-spaced, Arial 12-font.

Two acceptable formats for the assignment:

1. Put the assignments in a binder with sections clearly marked. Submit on the first day of class.
2. Email the assignment in one document with clearly marked sections to the address above BEFORE class meets the first day.

Part 1

Purchase the following texts:

The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr

The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids by Alexandra Robbins

Write a dialectical journal of at least 1000 words for each of the novels. See below for instructions on how to write a dialectical journal.

Part 2

Find at least **five** editorials or commentaries / essays (not news articles or informational features) from reputable newspapers or issues-based magazines (*Time*, *Newsweek*, etc.). The articles should all be on one arguable topic.

Include copies of the editorials/commentaries. Then, write an essay of at least 500 words in which you agree or disagree with the selections. See below for more specific information for this assignment, including possible appropriate sources and links to helpful sites for the writing.

Part 3

Define the terms on the list below and be prepared to take a test the first week of class. You are responsible for only definitions when you return in the fall; however, you will need to be able to identify, ultimately, examples of the rhetorical strategies/devices, so it might be useful for you to include examples where appropriate as well.

Part I

Dialectical Journal

A dialectical journal is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You write down passages that make you think or interest you and write about your thoughts. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature. By writing about a text, you make your own meaning of the work in order to truly understand it. When you do this yourself, the text belongs to you--you have made it yours. The passages are there for everyone to read; however, the connections and interpretations are uniquely yours. You are neither right nor wrong in your response. So be willing to take risks and be honest. Do not research answers in secondary sources.

Procedure

Journals are evaluated on the quality of your response.

Select passages that you want to write about.

Write a detailed response to the passage you have chosen.

Read, think, and write as much as you can.

Always be sincere about what you are saying in your writing.

If you get stuck, use the following list to help you get started.

WRITE ABOUT: what you like, what you dislike, what seems confusing, what seems unusual, what you think something means, what personal connections you make, what predictions you can pose. Possible sentence lead-ins might begin like:

I really don't understand this because. . .

I really like/dislike this idea because. . .

This idea/event seems to be important because. . .

I think the author is trying to say that . . .

This passage reminds me of a time in my life when . . .

This part doesn't make sense because . . .

Part 2

Editorials/Commentaries

Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines:

The New York Times (US newspaper)
The Washington Post (US newspaper)
Time (US news magazine)
Newsweek (US news magazine)
The New Republic (US political magazine)
National Review (US political magazine)

The New Yorker (US ideas magazine)
Atlantic Monthly (US ideas magazine)
Harper's (US ideas magazine)
Mother Jones (US ideas magazine)
Salon.com (online ideas magazine)
Slate.com (online ideas magazine)

Examples of newspapers/magazines that are **not** recommended:

The Toronto Sun (newspaper)
The Toronto Star (newspaper)
USA Today (newspaper)
fashion, lifestyle, or popular culture/entertainment magazines

Some questions to think about/comment on: (You **don't** have to answer them all).

- What exactly is the editorialist's viewpoint?
- Do you agree or disagree or qualify (you agree with some but not all) with the writer's viewpoints? Why?
- Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
- What are some of the author's best arguments? What techniques are used? What makes them good?
- Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
- How does this editorial connect with other knowledge that you have from other sources?
- Anything else this editorial makes you think about...?
- How would you describe the author's tone? (his attitude toward what he is writing)
- How would you describe his style? (his sentence constructions, word choice, rhetorical devices used, organization)

You should be writing an argument concerning the topic you chose and taking into consideration the different opinions you found. Here are sites that will be helpful in writing an argumentative essay.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/05/>

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/essaywriting/a/argument.htm>

http://www.oami.umich.edu/i/global/publications/posse_writing.pdf

<https://www.irsc.edu/uploadedFiles/Students/AcademicSupportCenter/WritingLab/E5-Argumentative-%28Persuasive%29-Essay.pdf>

Be sure to make your argument central to the essay. Use the sources (editorials) as support for the argument.

Part 3**Vocabulary**

	Dialect	Metonymy
	Diction	Motif
	Didactic	Onomatopoeia
Abstract	Discourse	Oxymoron
Ad hominem	Ellipsis	Parable
Alliteration	Epigraph	Parallelism
Allusion	Ethos	Parody
Anachronism	Euphemism	Pathos
Analogy	Euphony	Pedantic
Anaphora	Figurative language	Periodic sentence
Anecdote	Genre	Personification
Antecedent	Hyperbole	Persuasion
Antithesis	Imagery	Rhetoric
Argument	Induction	Rhetorical modes
Cacophony	Inference	Rhetorical question
Coherence	Invective	Sarcasm
Colloquial	Irony	Satire
Conflict	Logical fallacy	Style
Connotation	Logos	Syllogism
Deduction	Loose sentence	Symbol
Denotation	Metaphor	Synecdoche

Syntax

Synthesis

Theme

Thesis

Tone

Transition

Understatement

Voice

Additional Useful Information

Note: This information will be on the Sunlake High School website. Access it there for active links or copy and paste the link into the browser.

How to Read Critically:

http://www.criticalreading.com/critical_reading.htm

http://www.criticalreading.com/critical_reading_thinking.htm

http://www.criticalreading.com/critical_thinking.htm

How to Read Nonfiction:

<http://www.dowlingcentral.com/MrsD/area/literature/Nonfiction/nonfiction.html>

<ps044.k12.sd.us/Nonfiction/READING%20NONFICTION.pps>

Useful site on rhetoric:

<http://humanities.byu.edu/rhetoric/silva.htm>