

AP: Language and Composition
Summer Assignment 2014
Leslie A. Kalmbach room #228
lakalmbach@gaston.k12.nc.us

The AP: Language and Composition course differs from the experiences you've had in English courses previously. This course primarily focuses on non-fiction text and the rhetorical strategies that authors use to achieve a variety of purposes. Through multiple writing assignments, students will be challenged to construct expository, argumentative, and rhetorical prose that focuses on refined diction, purposeful use of organization, and logical progression of thought.

I look forward to meeting you this coming academic year! Please feel free to email me at the above address if you have any questions about the course or this assignment. Please be sure to turn in your two essays on **August 25, 2014 by 3:15**. Failure to do so will result in a 10 point deduction per day.

Summer Assignment Part #1:

I am asking you to expand your cultural literacy through this summer assignment by reading ONE of the following works and completing an essay on it:

Escape from Camp 14, Blaine Harden

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

The Last Lecture, Randy Pausch

Girl, Interrupted, Susanna Kaysen

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Mark Haddon

These books are readily available in most local bookstores or on Amazon.com. E-book versions are also a good option. Many area public libraries also have copies of the books.

I would like you to tackle a topic related to the book in one typed 450-word essay (described on the next page) to be turned in **the first day of classes, August 25, 2014**.

Summer Assignment Part 1, (Essay #1) topics

Directions: Choose the topic below (only ONE) that corresponds with the novel/non-fiction work you selected on the first page. As you write, do not summarize the plot. Instead, focus on appeals, devices, and strategies. Use quotes/refer to specific pages in the book for support! Again, your essay should be approximately 450 words.

Topic 1: (If you choose *Escape from Camp 14*) Explain how the author uses passages containing narration, description, examples, or cause and effect (choose three passages) to describe the distinctive nature of Shin Dong-Hyuk's experiences. Use specific passages from the novel and explain how it helps you, the reader, differentiate Shin Dong-Hyuk's captivity from other captivity experiences you may have read previously. (Like *Night* or *The Diary of Anne Frank*)

Topic 2: (If you choose *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*) Choose three chapters and explain how the authors use narration, description, examples, or cause and effect to support the argument or claim of each chapter. How do those claims support the book's overall purpose (What change in thinking do the authors hope to encourage in you, the reader?) (note: the authors state the book does not have a "unifying theme")?

Topic 3: (If you choose *The Last Lecture*) Discuss three of the following strategies and/or devices that Pausch uses that prevent his memoir from becoming a "poor me...I'm dying from cancer" type melodrama to a rather instructional commentary about his thoughts on the truly important things in life. (Strategies: narration, description, contrast/comparison, cause/effect; Devices: hyperbole/exaggeration, allusion, metaphor, personification, metonymy/synecdoche, analogy, simile, apostrophe, understatement/litotes, epithet) Choose three strategies and/or devices AND **explain** how you think it keeps the tone more instructional than a sad story about death.

Topic 4: (If you choose *Girl, Interrupted*)

Discuss the book's structure (the excerpts from her case file alongside her personal observations) and the author's use of language, specifically how the author uses tone (her attitude towards what she is talking about; sympathy, frustration, etc.) to explain her own mental state. How does the structure help you, the reader, better understand what is happening? Does the author seem to be trustworthy? How does her choice of words help you make this judgement?

Topic 5: (If you choose *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*)

Consider how the main character notices what other characters do not pay attention to. Use examples to show how the author uses language and rhetorical appeals (especially logos) to express the main character's view of the world. How does the main character's autism affect his view of the world? How does his attention to logic, along with a near exclusion of pathos, make his observations unique?

***Attached is a version of a RHETORICAL KEYSTONE. You need to become familiar with the terms and their uses.**

*Prompts created by S. Petri and S. Luoma from Chesapeake High School (Pasadena, MD)

Summer Assignment Part #2 (Essay #2):

While part of this course deals with rhetoric and reading, the other part deals with your ability to construct your own opinion as an argument. It is your job to write a second essay (approximately 450 words) based on the following question. This essay will be graded for COMPLETION only, since its format is different from what we normally do in English classes. Consider it practice for the types of argument essays we will do as the course progresses. **This assignment is due on the first day of classes, August 25, 2014.**

In his article, "Say it Quick, Say it Well--the Attention Span of the Modern Internet Customer," Rob Weatherhead says:

This always-on world and the huge amounts of content available on the internet has significant implications for the modern day consumers attention span. It has even greater implications for the generation of people who have never known anything but high speed broadband and internet access, the future adult consumer. A recent Pew Internet study in the US suggests that while students coming through the schools system in this always on world benefit from instant access to a wealth of information from numerous sources, their attention span and desire for in depth analysis is consequently diminished. The current generation of internet consumers live in a world of "instant gratification and quick fixes" which leads to a "loss of patience and a lack of deep thinking".

An article from the Elon University School of Communications states that one of the predictions for the Class of 2020, nicknamed the A-O (Always-On) generation is that:

Young people accustomed to a diet of quick-fix information nuggets will be less likely to undertake deep, critical analysis of issues and challenging information. Shallow choices, an expectation of instant gratification, a lack of patience, are likely to be common results. One possible outcome is stagnation in innovation.

Write an essay that discusses the connection between instant communication and innovation. Additionally, discuss the key factors that may come into play as this generation moves into the working world.

Please research each term and become familiar with each term and their uses.

Ethos Pathos Logos

Exposition	Narration	Description	Argument (Persuasion)
------------	-----------	-------------	-----------------------

Example:	Cause/effect	Contrast/comparison	Division/classification	Process
	Description	Narration	Argument	Definition

These choices revolve around the following:

Diction	Syntax	Tone/attitude
Organization	Point of View	

Alliteration	Hyperbole/exaggeration	Parallelism	Allusion
Metaphor*	Personification*	Metonymy/synecdoche*	Analogy*
Rhetorical question	Antithesis	Onomatopoeia*	Simile*
Apostrophe	Oxymoron*	Understatement/litotes	Epithet*

*=figures of speech

Name _____ Novel _____

RUBRIC for the AP English Language SUMMER ASSIGNMENT, Essay #1

Use this as a guide for writing/revising your essay.

Submit this rubric with your essay on the first day of class!

Score of 5: (50)

Shows a thorough understanding of the topic

Addresses all aspects of the task with originality

Richly supports essay with relevant facts, examples, and details from the book

Is a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization

Includes a strong introduction and conclusion

The spelling, punctuation, and grammar are accurate

Score of 4: (40)

Shows a good understanding of the topic

Addresses all aspects of the task

Includes relevant facts, examples, and details from the book, but may not support all aspects of the task

Is a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization

Includes a good introduction and conclusion

The spelling, punctuation, and grammar are mostly accurate

Score of 3: (30)

Presents a satisfactory understanding of the topic

Addresses most aspects of the task or addresses all aspects in a limited way

Is a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization

Uses some facts, examples, and details from the book

Restates the topic in the introduction and concludes with a simple restatement of the idea

The spelling, punctuation, and grammar are somewhat accurate

Score of 2: (25)

Attempts to address the topic, but uses vague and/or inaccurate information

Is a poorly organized essay lacking focus; uses few facts, examples, and details from the book; and includes information that contains inaccuracies

Has vague or missing introduction and/or conclusion

The spelling, punctuation, and grammar are moderately weak

Score of 0

Does not submit an assignment or submits an off-topic assignment

Summer assignment #2 will be given a 50 point completion grade (points will be deducted if essay is less than 450 words) that will be combined with the 50 point grade given for summer assignment #1 to create a single 100 point grade.