

AP English III Summer Reading

Purpose

One of the major objectives of the AP Language & Composition class is to help students to become more skilled, analytical, and careful readers. It is essential that students continue to practice critical reading skills independently during the summer months. The summer reading assignment is designed to allow students to preview major themes of the course, reflect upon and challenge their notions of reading and writing, and to instill a strong work ethic that students will be expected to maintain throughout the upcoming school year. The assignment will be taken up on the first day of school (NO EXCEPTIONS)! If you have issues printing, you may email your assignment to me as an attachment. My email address is rhouston@spsd.k12.ms.us.

Note: 15 points will be deducted from the total summer reading grade if the assignments are not typed. 10 points will be deducted per day that the assignment is late.

***I also need you to be sure to purchase a copy of *The Color of Water*. It can be print or EBook, but you will need to have a copy of your own for activities during the first week and half of class.**

Required Reading

- I. *The New York Times* "Room for Debate" (www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate)
- II. *The Color of Water* by James McBride

Grading

- "Room for Debate": 1 assignments @ 60 points
- *The Color of Water*: 1 assignments@ 140 points

TOTAL= 200 points

Role in the AP Language & Composition Class

- The "Room for Debate" assignments serve several purposes. First, they will help familiarize students with nonfiction texts, which much of this course centers upon. Also, students will begin to analyze the techniques used by writers to support differing viewpoints on a subject. In addition, we will be referring to this assignment later in the term as students research, gather various resources on, and create a

synthesis essay about a current issue in the news. Students will be expected to use MLA formatting for their Works Cited, which they will become familiar with through the Summer Read assignment.

• *The Color of Water* assignment serves a couple of purposes. We will analyze the effect of word choice and sentence structure on meaning, tone, and thematic development and offer a close reading of *The Color of Water* and support interpretations using evidence from the text.

Assignment #1: Room for Debate

- ☐ Visit the "Room for Debate" database (www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate)
- ☐ Select one topic of your choice (scroll down to the bottom left of the page for a complete list of topics). Read the introduction and **each** editorial (typically 4-6) on the topic. This will give you some background information on the issue, as well as several perspectives from a vast array of authors.
- ☐ Create an MLA citation (works cited entry): use the entry information for an article from an online newswire or newspaper (see below). Remember to use a **hanging indent** (indent every line *except* the first one).
- ☐ In one typed page, under the MLA citation:
 - _ Identify the different issues presented regarding this topic.
 - _ Discuss *how* each side presents its argument.
 - _ Discuss which side you feel is more convincing in its argument and **why**.
 - _ In your one-page analysis, you should utilize at least 2 direct quotes from the articles for support.

Sample MLA Citation

"How to Improve the NCAA Tournament." *New York Times* 01 Apr 2010. n. pag. *Room for Debate*. Web. 17 May 2011. <<http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/01/how-to-improve-the-n-c-a-a-tournament/>>.

MLA Citation Template (for this assignment)

"Title of Discussion Topic." *New York Times* Date Published Month Year. n. pag. *Room for Debate*. Web. Date Accessed Month 2011. <insert complete URL>.

Sample Submission

Sue Jones

Mr. Houston

AP English III

6 August 2016

"Is Extreme Parenting Effective?" *New York Times* 13 January 2011. n. pag. *Room for Debate*. Web. 23 June 2011. <<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/01/13/is-extreme-parenting-effective>>.

There are so many concerns and questions to deal with in the parenting world. Do you tell your child yes or no? Are you tough or sweet tempered? Do you let things go or do you keep a tight leash on your child? These questions are just some of the thoughts and interests that parents face today. With society becoming more complex and sophisticated, does parenting need to become extreme? How hard you are on your child can help predict how successful they will be in the future. Extremely strict control can either lead your child into a life of success or make them counterproductive.

It is believed that how strict you are on your child will either help or hurt them in the future. Amy Chua, a professor at Yale Law says, "Tough love is the key to raising successful children." In other words, don't give into children. You are to hold your ground, and set multiple rules for your child. Mothers have set rules such as: not being allowed to have or go to sleepovers, no TV, no complaining, and no grades below an A. Some believe that this is the way to ensure the ability of their children to make something of themselves in the future. The more rules you supply for your child, the more they will progress in their value for education. This idea is backed up by the thought of disregarding parenting responsibilities completely. One woman said, "The problem is that laissez-faire parenting can be too laid back and detrimental to children." If you revoke all parenting in general, then your child can become ineffective and fruitless. In parenting can you only be strict or lazy? No, these are just two extremes. On the flip side, the majority of parents think that a balance in parenting is the best for raising their child. You can't destroy all creativity and have so many expectations for your child. Some things that they do have to be on their own, otherwise they won't be able to make their own decisions in life. They will only do what's expected of them. Also, by forcing your beliefs on your child, you are pressuring them. The

ability to accomplish the goals that children have set for them has become harder because goals are becoming harder to achieve. Karen Karbo, novelist and memoirist states, "It's true that we, as parents, have erred in downplaying how competitive life is, and how difficult it is to truly excel." By only setting rules and never allowing our children to simply enjoy life as it comes, we are putting too much stress on them. Is being strict the right way to parent, or is it keeping a balance?

Parenting should be a mix of strictness and freedom, a perfect balance. Parents cannot control their children's every minute in life, otherwise they aren't living their own lives. It is true to say that kids can't have any rules at all, but a strict rules policy is ridiculous. The stress level that can be caused from being too strict is outrageous. If children don't succeed in what we push and plan for them, they feel like a failure. Children should be praised for what their own personal capabilities allow them to do, not be scorned for what they can't acquire. How strict you are with your children does affect them in their success in life, but being too strict has problems in itself. Too much of anything can be a bad thing; finding a good balance of yes and no, being tough and sweet, keeping a tight leash and knowing when to let go, is the way parenting should go about.

New York Times—Room for Debate

Topic Analysis # _____

	4	3	2	1	0
MLA Citation	Properly cites website using MLA format; correctly italicizes, punctuates, uses hanging indent, etc.	Properly cites website using MLA format; indents, punctuation, etc. are mostly correct.	Attempts to cite website using MLA format; includes relevant information but is not formatted correctly	Only includes portions of information necessary in an MLA citation	Does not include an MLA citation
Identification of issues	Clearly and thoroughly examines complex views on the topic	Includes differing views presented on the topic	Makes some mention of different viewpoints presented	Viewpoints are identified superficially or vaguely	Does not identify varying viewpoints on issue presented in articles
Discussion of presentation of arguments	Carefully analyzes evidence, approaches, etc. utilized by authors in supporting viewpoints	Considers some evidence, approaches, etc. utilized by authors in supporting viewpoints	Makes some mention of evidence, approaches, etc. but does not get in depth	Makes little mention of specific evidence, approaches, etc.	Does not discuss how authors present arguments
Opinion of articles	Student clearly identifies which argument he/she found most effective, and includes specific evidence to support his/her opinion	Student identifies which argument he/she found most effective, and includes some general evidence to support his/her opinion	Student identifies which argument he/she found most effective, but includes little evidence to support his/her opinion	Student's opinion of arguments is unclear	Student does not take a position evaluating the persuasiveness of arguments
Textual evidence	Includes 2 quotes from the articles and analyzes the textual evidence	Includes 2 quotes from the articles to support his or her ideas	Includes 2 quotes from the articles, but the textual evidence does not support the students' ideas	Includes only 1 quote from the articles	Does not specifically quote articles

TOTAL= _____/20 x 3 = _____

Assignment #2: *The Color of Water*

For each discussion question, respond thoroughly in paragraph form. In your response, prove that you read the text, demonstrate your understanding, and most importantly, think critically about the central ideas of the book. Provide specific evidence from the text to support your ideas. Be sure to address all parts of the question. **This assignment is to be typed.**

1. Discuss Ruth McBride's refusal to reveal her past and how that influenced her children's sense of themselves and their place in the world. How has your knowledge or lack thereof about your family background shaped your own self-image?
2. The McBride children's struggle with their identities led each to his or her own "revolution." Is it also possible that that same struggle led them to define themselves through professional achievement?
3. "It was in her sense of education, more than any other, that Mommy conveyed her Jewishness to us." Do you agree with this statement? Is it possible that Ruth McBride Jordan's unshakable devotion to her faith, even though she converted to Christianity from Judaism, stems from her Orthodox Jewish upbringing? Please provide evidence to support your answer.
4. What effect does alternating chapters focusing on aspects of McBride's life and that of his mother (Ruth McBride Jordan) have on our understanding of McBride, his mother, or any of the issues that the story of their lives evokes?
5. How does McBride's recounting of his mother's life help him to discover himself and/or answer questions of race and identity that had troubled him his entire life?
6. The lives of McBride and his family members are marked by historical events and people related to race relations in the United States. In particular, how does McBride perceive some of those people and events?
7. The various members of McBride's family confront personal issues of race, identity, family, and religion. Compare the manner in which different individuals in his family deal with various issues.
8. How would the story and our reaction to it differ if McBride had only offered his own autobiography or his mother's biography? How does having pieces of the two narratives woven together influence our experience of those two lives?
9. McBride describes his mother as "commander in chief," "chief surgeon for bruises," "war secretary," "religious consultant," "chief psychologist," and "financial adviser (9). What evidence does the narrative he writes offer for each of these roles? Discuss the statements that his mother typically makes and that McBride uses as evidence of these roles (page 9) as connected to Ruth McBride Jordan's eclectic philosophy of life.
10. McBride writes, "Mommy's house was an entire world that she created" (27). Describe that world and the manner in which it functions.

SAMPLE RESPONSE

Sue Jones

Mr. Houston

AP English III

6 August 2016

- 1. Number and answer each discussion question in paragraph form.**

SAMPLE RUBRIC

	5	4	3	2
<i>Organization</i>	Very effective organization	Good organization	Limited organization	Inadequate or no organization
<i>Support & Development</i>	Very effective development	Adequate development	Limited development	Inadequate or no support and development
<i>Quality of Response</i>	Responses are extremely thoughtful, considering the deeper themes and complexities of the text	Responses show a fair amount of deep thought	Responses are somewhat superficial, only considering the surface meaning of the text	Responses do not show much thought or even demonstration of having read the text completely/independently
<i>Conventions</i>	Few or no errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, or spelling	Few errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation and spelling that do not interfere with meaning	Several noticeable errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that may interfere with meaning	Errors so severe in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that they significantly interfere with meaning

TOTAL= ____/20 x 7 = _____