

AP SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS 2021-2022
Gibbs High School
English IV Advanced Placement Language and Composition
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SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021

This AP course is a bit different than your other English classes. While it is as rigorous as AP Literature (and more so than Honors), and covers many of the same writing skills, AP Lang focuses more on crafting and supporting arguments and identifying them in (mostly) nonfiction texts. Here is the course description, directly from The College Board:

“AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.” ([AP Central](#))

Your **required summer reading assignments** will prepare you for this new content and allow you to practice finding and supporting claims within published nonfiction texts. Below are your expectations for each assignment:

ASSIGNMENT #1 (40 points)

REQUIRED NON-FICTION BOOK: *How to Argue With a Cat* by Jay Heinrichs

This book is an excellent primer for reading and writing arguments and understanding rhetoric (plus, it has a sense of humor). [Here is the description from Goodreads:](#)

“Jay Heinrichs, award-winning author of Thank You for Arguing and advisor to the Pentagon, NASA and Fortune 500 companies, distills a lifetime of negotiating and rhetoric to show you how to win over anyone - from colleagues and bosses, to friends and partners at home (and even the most stubborn of feline adversaries).

You'll learn to: 1) Perfect your timing - learn exactly when to pounce, 2) Get your body language, tone and gesture just right, 3) Think about what your opponent wants - always offer a comfy lap, and 4) Lure them in by making them think they have the power.

The result? A happy, hopefully scratch-free, resolution.”

TASK: We will discuss the book further in the first weeks of school, and you will take notes and an assessment.

For your summer reading requirement, [you will complete the attached questions that accompany the book.](#) You may need to refer to a few outside sources for some questions, so be sure to paraphrase/cite correctly! You may submit the assignments on a GoogleDoc and share it with me using the email at the top of this packet. You may also send it as an attachment.

ASSIGNMENT #2 (40 points): CHOICE NONFICTION BOOK/ BOOK TALK

You will select ONE book from the attached list of approved titles. After reading this book, you will prepare a book talk, which will either be A) Presented to the class in person, or B) Filmed and submitted as a video (minimum of 3 minutes long for each option)

For your book talk, you will give one 3-minute presentation on a book you've read over the summer. The purpose of a book talk is to convince the listener to read the book you are recommending. This book talk is essentially a persuasive speech to convince the listener that they should read a specific book.

A book talk is very similar to a trailer for a film, which shows you just enough information to convince you that you should watch the movie.

The book talk will cover some elements of the novel, but you should focus much of your time on the plot, themes and conflict in the novel.

Your presentation must include ONE visual aid, such as an illustration or original book cover, poster, or Slides presentation. If you are super tech-y, you might have an even better idea.

An example of a short book talk can be found here:

http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/gaiman_graveyard.htm

For this portion of your summer reading requirements, you will submit the completed outline (you may copy my template onto a separate Google Doc) and the presentation itself on GoogleSlides. (You should have a minimum of five slides--one title page, and one for each part of the outline). You may submit the assignments by sharing them with me using the email at the top of this packet. You may also send them as attachments.

AP Choice Non-Fiction Books

Please select ONE of these approved titles, and be prepared to present a book talk in class during the first few weeks of school. Each title is linked to a description on Goodreads for your convenience.

[Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt](#)

[Unorthodox by Deborah Feldman](#)

[Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom](#)

[Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by Jon Berendt](#)

[In Cold Blood by Truman Capote](#)

[Freakanomics Stephen Levitt and Stephen Dubner Deborah Feldman](#)

[I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou](#)

[Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan](#)

[he Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls](#)

[The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride](#)

[Waco: A Survivor's Story/A Place Called Waco by David Thibodeau](#)

[On Writing by Stephen King](#)

[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot](#)

[Into the Wild by John Krakauer](#)

[Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)

[Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain](#)

[A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking](#)

[Unbroken by Lauren Hillenbrand](#)

[When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi](#)

[The Tipping Point by Malcom Gladwell](#)

[Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond](#)

[Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly](#)

[Columbine by David Cullen](#)

[The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women](#)

[The Right Stuff by Thomas Wolfe](#)

[Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam](#)

[The Diving Bell and the Butterfly by Jean Dominique-Bauby](#)

[Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds](#)

[Laughing at My Nightmare by Shane Burcaw](#)

[I Am Malala:How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick](#)



Presentation Outline

This should be typed and turned in with your presentation.

I have provided a template for your convenience.

Attention getter (Quote to hook the audience):

A. Attention getter (Quote to hook the audience): Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious quote to start off your presentation. This quote will get the reader's attention. Don't just pick any old quote... choose carefully and deliberately to try to capture the attention of the audience. Also explain why you chose the quote.

A:

B. Introduction (Title, Author, Genre) :

Clearly introduce your book by giving the title, author and genre of the book.

B:

C. Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!):

Describe the setting, characters, and plot of the book without giving too much away of the story. What is the main conflict? What themes are developed? What lessons do characters learn? Please use precise and descriptive language. Don't just give a list of characters. Don't over-summarize. (Hint—you are doing this if you find yourself saying "and" too much.)

C:

D. Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific):

Without giving away the ending, convince the reader that you loved this book and that this is the book they want to read next. Make some predictions about what kind of student would enjoy this book ("if you like..., you'll love...").

D:

AP LANG AND COMP
SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR
DUE: August 13, 2021

NOTE: You do NOT need to turn this in with your project. It is here only for your convenience.

- I have read the requirements carefully.
- I have read *How to Argue With a Cat* by Jay Heinrichs in its entirety.
- I have completed [the activity](#) that accompanies *How to Argue With a Cat*.
- I have selected and read (in its entirety) a non-fiction book from the list provided.
- I have completed the outline for the book talk, which will either be presented live or recorded in advance.
- I have completed the Google Slides Presentation (minimum of five slides)
- I have shared all items with Mrs. Braeuner at crystal.braeuner@knoxschools.org
- I am ready for AP Lang!!!