

AP Language and Composition

Yearlong 23-24

Mrs. Lindsey Lee

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Part 1 READING AND ANNOTATING

Choose ONE of the nonfiction books below. I recommend doing some light research to make sure that you pick one that will interest you.

- [*Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy](#)
- [*Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell](#)
- [*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote](#)
- [*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien](#)
- [*Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser](#)
- [*Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer](#)

For your book, you will fill out the SPACECAT worksheet attached. As you read, annotate for the elements identified in SPACECAT (total of 25 annotations).

*You may request an alternative text to the following, however you must do so by July 1, 2023. To do so, email lindsey.lee@knoxschools.org. I will check my school email around once every week and this request is something we will have to discuss back and forth.

Part 2 ANALYZING

Once finished you will write an informal essay reviewing your book of choice. To complete this assignment, you must address the following:

1. Why you chose to review the item
2. Necessary context for evaluating the work
3. The creator's purpose for the work and their efficacy in meeting that purpose.
4. Analysis which should include 1 or more of the following:
 - a. Strengths of the work
 - b. Weaknesses of the work
 - c. Style and how it contributes to meeting the purpose
 - d. Comparison to other media
 - i. Use this item to support your assessment. How does it compare to other similar items in the genre? Or how does it compare/contrast to genres that tackle the content differently?
5. Overall recommendation
 - a. Make sure to note the intended audience for the piece

Part 3 ARGUMENT

Write a handwritten essay that addresses the demands of the below argumentative essay prompt, adhering to the prescribed time limit. This needs to be completed by the second day of class as we will be using it to begin learning the rubrics for assessment.

Suggested time—40 minutes.

(This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

Colin Powell, a four-star general and former United States secretary of state, wrote in his 1995 autobiography: “[W]e do not have the luxury of collecting information indefinitely. At some point, before we can have every possible fact in hand, we have to decide. The key is not to make quick decisions, but to make timely decisions.”

Write an essay that argues your position on the extent to which Powell’s claim about making decisions is valid.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.
- Provide evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

SPACE CAT

Name _____ Per _____

Text Title _____

S	SPEAKER: Who is the speaker/writer? What do we know about them? What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?	
P	PURPOSE: What is the speaker/writer hoping to accomplish? What is the reason behind this piece? What do they want the audience to do after having listened?	
A	AUDIENCE: Who is the speaker/writer trying to reach? How do we know? Do they indicate a specific audience? What assumptions exist in the text about the intended audience?	
C	CONTEXT: What is the time and place of this piece? What is happening in the world as it relates to the subject of the speech or the speaker/writer?	
E	EXIGENCE: What was the spark or catalyst that moved the speaker/writer to act/write? How did that event impact the speaker/writer?	
C	CHOICES: What are the rhetorical choices that the speaker/writer makes in the speech? Think about overall structure, devices, diction, syntax, etc.	
A	APPEALS: Which of the three rhetorical appeals (ethos, logos, pathos) are present in the text? Where? Why?	
T	tone: What is the speaker/authors attitude toward the subject? Is the tone the same throughout the whole piece? Where does it shift? What evidence is there to demonstrate the tone?	