

2018 AP English Language and Composition Nonfiction Reading List

ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH ISSUES

Title	Author	Description
<i>Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America</i>	Thomas L. Friedman	Explores the decline of our planet because of global warming and overcrowding and offers solutions to the downward trend. Pulitzer Prize winning author.
<i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i>	Barbara Kingsolver	One family’s quest to “live off the land” in modern America
<i>Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us</i>	Michael Moss	An investigative report that links the rise in obesity in America with the rise of the processed foods industry
Any nonfiction book (<i>The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto, Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation</i>)	Michael Pollan	Author asks interesting questions about food, where it comes from, how its history affects our lives, and how it becomes sustenance for our lives
<i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal</i>	Eric Schlosser	An exploration of the history of fast food, the impact it has had on our lives, and the myths we should forget about it
<i>The World Without Us</i>	Alan Weisman	A simple concept of imagining the Earth without human beings offers an intriguing way to explore our impact on the planet

SCIENCE / MEDICINE (Especially appealing for students who are science oriented or interested in the medical field)

Title	Author	Description
<i>Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon’s Journey into the Afterlife</i>	Eben Alexander	Dr. Alexander’s story of an illness and a near-death experience that changed this skeptic’s philosophy of health
<i>Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness</i>	Susannah Cahalan	A twenty-two-year-old reporter’s memoir of suffering from a rare brain disease that opened research in the medical community
<i>Surgeon!: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Doctor</i>	Dr. Richard Caleel	A must read for anyone interested in the medical profession
<i>The Emperor of All Maladies</i>	Siddhartha Mukherjee	The “biography” of cancer and its treatment for over a thousand years
Any nonfiction book (<i>Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal; Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife; Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</i>)	Mary Roach	#1 best-selling author who asks questions we would rarely ask in a scientific way about our digestive system, ghosts, and dead bodies
<i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales</i>	Oliver Sacks	Recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Rebecca Skloot	The story of a poor Southern tobacco farmer’s wife whose cells—taken without her knowledge—became the first “immortal cells” in history. They are still alive today and have been used in numerous experiments since her death over 60 years ago.

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GENERAL NONFICTION

Title	Author	Description
<i>Power Plays: Politics, Football, and Other Blood Sports</i>	John M. Barry	An examination of the causes and effects of the pursuit of power in the arenas of the media, politics, and even college football. Award winning and NYT Bestselling author.
<i>Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking</i>	Susan Cain	Real-life examples that could change the way we see quiet members of our society
<i>Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America</i>	Barbara Ehrenreich	One woman's story of attempting to survive on minimum wage
<i>How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization</i>	Franklin Foer	A surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between.
Any nonfiction book <i>(Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking; David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants; Outliers: The Story of Success; The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference)</i>	Malcolm Gladwell	#1 best-selling author explores dynamics of our world in new ways
<i>Give and Take: A Revolutionary Approach to Success</i>	Adam M. Grant	Instead of focusing on the qualities of the successful, this book investigates relationships and networking's influence on a person's success.
<i>unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation</i>	Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson	Guide to seeing through 21 st century media spin by the founders of FactCheck.org
<i>Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything OR Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance</i>	Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	Intriguing, easily readable explorations of data that answer questions like "Why do drug dealers live with their moms?" and "Do parents really matter?" Second volume asks new questions, such as "Are people hardwired for altruism or selfishness?"
<i>Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong</i>	James W. Loewen	One history professor's attempt to correct mistakes and misconceptions she found in several high school American history textbooks. Winner of American Book Award.
<i>Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business</i>	Neil Postman	An investigation of the television's effect on American culture
<i>The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids</i>	Alexandra Robbins	An exploration of how our current educational climate of high-stakes testing and pressure to achieve affects students
<i>Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market</i>	Eric Schlosser	An exploration of underground drug trade and its surprising parallels to big business
<i>Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail</i>	Cheryl Strayed	Memoir of the author's 1100-mile hike following a difficult time in her life
<i>A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League</i>	Ron Suskind	A young man's journey from the slums of DC to Brown University
<i>One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School</i>	Scott Turow	The author's compelling experiences of being indoctrinated at America's most prestigious law school
<i>The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women</i>	Naomi Wolf	A bestselling classic about the obsession with physical perfection
<i>I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban</i>	Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb	Memoir of Miss Upton's hero, a young Pakistani girl who was an activist for girls' education and became an enemy on the Taliban's hit list.

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HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS

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<i>Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth</i>	Reza Aslan	Detailed, thoroughly-researched biography that “challenges long-held assumptions”
Any historical account (<i>Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America; Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State and the Birth of Liberty; The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History</i>)	John M. Barry	Best-selling author explores highly-charged incidents in American history
<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i>	Ishmael Baeh	One young man’s experience as a child soldier during wars in Africa’s Sierra Leone.
<i>One Summer: America, 1927</i>	Bill Bryson	Account of an eventful season that includes Babe Ruth, Al Capone, Charles Lindbergh, and Calvin Coolidge
<i>Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler’s Sentence of Death in August 1944</i>	Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre	Dramatic story of the liberation of Paris. Exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written
<i>Columbine</i>	Dave Cullen	10 years after the tragic events in Littleton, Colorado, asks questions about not only the shooters and victims but also the culture that surrounded such an incident.
<i>Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune</i>	Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr.	Account of a reclusive heiress that spans from the Gilded Age of the 1800s to the 21 st century and a mysterious history of her family and fortune
<i>Man’s Search for Meaning</i>	Viktor E. Frankel	Psychiatrist’s memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages. Listed in a Library of Congress survey as among top ten books that made a difference in people’s lives.
Any nonfiction account (<i>The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism; Team of Rivals; The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln; No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt; Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream; The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga</i>)	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Pulitzer-prize winning author writes in-depth biographies of some of the most influential figures of 20 th century America
<i>Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption</i> OR <i>Seabiscuit</i>	Laura Hillenbrand	Unforgettable true accounts of determination and the indomitable human spirit
<i>Profiles in Courage for Our Time</i>	Caroline Kennedy	Continues the legacy her father began with the original Profiles in Courage. Includes the accounts of thirteen acts of modern political bravery.
Any nonfiction book (<i>Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster; Into the Wild; Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith; Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman; Eiger Dreams: Ventures Among Men and Mountains</i>)	Jon Krakauer	Best-selling author writes about harrowing contemporary journeys that test the limits of humanity

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<p>Any nonfiction account <i>(The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America; In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin; Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History; Thunderstruck)</i></p>	Erik Larson	Exciting stories and mysteries that border on true crime
<p>Any biography <i>(American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House; Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power; Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship; American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation)</i></p>	Jon Meacham	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and editor of <i>Newsweek</i> magazine writes award-winning, in-depth studies of some of the
<p><i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i></p>	Azar Nafisi	One bold teacher who shares forbidden Western literature with seven Iranian women
<p><i>The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary</i></p>	Simon Winchester	The interesting account of a giant undertaking and the two men most responsible for it
<p><i>Just Mercy</i></p>	Bryan Stevenson	Lawyer, Bryan Stevenson's account of one of his first cases connected to his legal practice the Equal Justice Initiative. The story of a wrongly accused man facing the death penalty.

TRUE CRIME

Title	Author	Description
<i>Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders</i>	Vincent Bugliosi	Written by the lead prosecuting attorney, this book recounts the horrific crimes committed by Charles Manson and four of his followers
<i>Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb</i>	Bernard Lefkowitz	Account of 1989 rape of a mentally retarded girl by members of a NJ high school football team. Several parallels to like crimes in recent years, including those in Steubenville, Ohio.
<i>A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption</i>	Dina Temple-Raston	Explores the aftermath of the 1998 killing of James Byrd, Jr., a black man who was chained and dragged along a country road by three white males.