

AP Language & Composition (2020-21) Summer Reading Information

Welcome to AP Lang! The focus in AP Lang will be to foster your abilities to read, think, and write. Throughout the year you will read widely and explore memoirs, essays, speeches, letters, documentaries, cartoons, commercials, founding documents, and even a little fiction. Your job as a reader is not to passively read and memorize details to pass a content driven quiz. In an AP course students must have the ability, determination, and dedication to independently read and understand what the author is saying. Classroom discussions and your subsequent analysis writing assignments will focus how it is written, to whom it is written, and the author's purpose. You will develop thinking skills that will be applied to future texts and you'll connect new texts to novels you've read in previous English classes. It will be challenging, but it will be worth the work.

How will we communicate?

Join the Remind by texting the code @96g3dc to the number 81010.

Email me at jpeabody@wcskids.net

Login the Schoology. You are already enrolled in the Summer AP Lang Course and there's already a discussion post.

The course begins with summer assignments.

1. Develop your ability to **learn independently**. Seek cultural enrichment via virtual museum visits. Limit or kick social media habits that aren't enriching intellectually or culturally. Watch documentaries. Question. Pick an historical event that you're interested in and learn as much as you can about it. As a global citizen, watch or read the news of the world. Skim a couple reputable sources daily (like BBC, Reuters, AP NEWS, and NPR), and commit to reading at least two news articles per day on global topics that interest you.

2. **Write and Discuss on Schoology**. Over the summer you'll be expected to promote and participate in discussions on the arts/culture, historical events, and global news reports via Schoology. Develop opinions and have the knowledge to support your opinions. Teach others what you've learned. Share information regarding your hobbies and interests. Interesting people have interests.

I've started the first discussion by posting on Schoology an article about an important historical event commemorated today – Juneteenth. There aren't a certain number of posts you need to make, but everyone should participate as a learning community over the summer. I'll be posting a few articles per week and all fifty-seven AP students are included in the Schoology Class, so obviously you're not all expected to read every article or comment on every discussion. Pick something that looks interesting. Everyone is free to post comments, and everyone should show respect. Topics or articles that you find interesting and would like to post for discussion need to go through me first, so email the links to me. This exercise in student discourse is not an opportunity to argue politics, but a place to share and enlighten.

3. **Read at least one** of the following non-fiction books. As you read, focus not only on the author’s message and purpose, but on how the author crafts the message and why. Note the book’s organization, tone shifts, and interesting use of language. We will discuss what we’ve read in the fall, so be prepared with notes organized in a way that works for you (book annotations, post-it notes, etc). This course is not passive; your voice and opinions are welcomed and expected.

Choose from the following AP recommended non-fiction texts. Some books may contain content or language that you or your parents are not comfortable with, so please exercise choice. However, also consider this message from the College Board regarding controversial texts in AP Lang: *“The best response to controversial language or ideas in a text might well be a question about the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the language or idea in context. AP students should have the maturity, skill, and will to seek the larger meaning of a text or issue through thoughtful research.”*

Memoirs: Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

*Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Other Selected Non-fiction

A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

*The books with an * indicate that I have a few extra copies in my personal classroom library to loan out to students who are unable to purchase their own book and will be offered on a first come, first served basis. If you’re interested in borrowing a book from me, let me know and we can arrange a porch drop off.

This summer, you will begin your preparation toward the goals of “college success” and “intellectually responsible civic engagement” as detailed in the College Board’s official course description for AP Lang. Let’s all share the goal to make the Summer of 2020 one where we overcame challenges, motivated ourselves to learn, read voraciously, and learned more about the world around us. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the fall!