



AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION SUMMER READING LIST for 2019-2020

AP English Language and Composition is a college level course that focuses on analytical examination of *mostly non-fiction* materials. The readings include a number of essays, speeches, and political documents. Some fiction and drama will be read and examined in light of the historical context during which the pieces were composed. AP English Lang students examine rhetorical strategies and argumentative/persuasive techniques in writing, speech-making, political cartoons, commercials, and other media as they relate to contemporary issues or the contextual situation of the text.

AP English Lang students should enjoy reading and writing, as this course extensively explores both practices in depth. Therefore, the following list provides reading options for this summer. While you are required to **read at least one** of these texts and respond with a dialectical journal, any or all of these books will benefit you in preparation for this course.

- *Freakonomics* **OR** *Super Freakonomics* by Levitt & Dubner (Social aspects of economics)
- *Blink* **OR** *David and Goliath* **OR** *Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell (How brains work)
- *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol Dweck (Psychology)
- *Grit* by Angela Duckworth (Perseverance & success)
- *The Sense of Style* by Steven Pinker (Writing in the 21st Century)
- *Overachievers* **OR** *Geeks* by Alexandra Robbins (Success in school)

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

As you read, keep a dialectical journal for **your book of choice**. You should write this journal in one notebook. **DO NOT TYPE YOUR JOURNALS!** These journals will consist of **quotations** to which you respond critically for each work. Journals are due Monday, August 26th. Please label and date journals appropriately.

Select one quotation or passage for **approximately every 20-30 pages**. Respond to the quotations with your own thoughts and understanding of the author's ideas, and on the ways in which the author uses language to create an effect. How does that idea apply to you & your future? What is it about the language that stands out and makes the passage distinctive? How does the passage reflect the author's style and reveal larger themes of the work? I expect responses to be developed thoughtfully and intellectually. Responses should be **one complete paragraph** in length. The dialectical journals should be constructed in the following manner:

JOURNAL TEMPLATE

(Left Side of the Page)

Quote

"Write the quote from the book on the left side of the page. Include the correct MLA citation" (176).
Write your response and analysis to this quote onto the right side of the page.

(Right Side of the Page)

Response

For the RESPONSE column, you have **several ways** to respond to a text and you only need to use **one** way.

- _ Connect ideas to history, other literature, or current events
- _ Discuss questions about the beliefs / values implied in the text
- _ Give your personal reactions to the passage
- _ Discuss the words / structure (diction / syntax) the author chooses
- _ Tell how this idea applies to you and your life
- _ Argue in support or against the ideas of the author

***** Additionally, make flashcards/index cards with each of the terms on the back of this page. Include a definition, an example of each, and allow additional space on the card to expand upon throughout the year. *****

Flashcards of Literary & Rhetorical Devices

Allusion - An indirect reference to something (usually a literary text, although it can be other things commonly known, such as plays, songs, historical events) with which the reader is supposed to be familiar.

Anecdote - A brief recounting of a relevant episode. Anecdotes are often inserted into fictional or non-fiction texts as a way of developing a point or injecting humor.

Antecedent - The word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun. The AP language exam occasionally asks for the antecedent of a given pronoun in a long, complex sentence or in a group of sentences

Colloquial - Ordinary or familiar type of conversation. It's a common or familiar type of saying, similar to an adage or an aphorism.

Connotation - Rather than the dictionary definition (**denotation**), the associations suggested by a word. Implied meaning rather than literal meaning.

Denotation - The literal, explicit meaning of a word, without its connotations.

Diction - Word choice, particularly as an element of style. Different types of words have significant effects on meaning.

Didactic - A term used to describe fiction, nonfiction or poetry that teaches a specific lesson or moral or provides a model of correct behavior or thinking.

Ellipsis - The deliberate omission of a word or phrase from prose done for effect by the author. “

Euphemism - A more agreeable or less offensive substitute for generally unpleasant words or concepts.

Genre - The major category into which a literary work fits. The basic divisions of literature are prose, poetry, and drama.

Irony - When the opposite of what you expect to happen does. Can be Verbal, Dramatic, or Situational irony.

Juxtaposition - Placing things side by side for the purposes of comparison.

Mood - The atmosphere created by the literature and accomplished through word choice (diction). Syntax is often a creator of mood since word order, sentence length and strength and complexity also affect pacing and therefore mood.

Pacing – The speed or tempo of an author's writing. Writers can use a variety of devices (syntax, polysyndeton, anaphora, meter) to change the pacing of their words.

Parallelism – (Also known as parallel structure or balanced sentences.) Sentence construction which places equal grammatical constructions near each other, or repeats identical grammatical patterns.

Anaphora - Repetition of a word, phrase, or clause at the beginning of two or more sentences or clauses in a row.

Antithesis - Two opposite or contrasting words, phrases, or clauses, or even ideas, with parallel structure.

Chiasmus – When the same words are used twice in succession, but the second time, the order of the words is reversed.

Rhetoric - The art of effective communication.

Rhetorical Question - Question not asked for information but for effect.

Sarcasm - A generally bitter comment that is ironically or satirically worded. However, not all satire and irony are sarcastic. It is the bitter, mocking tone that separates sarcasm from mere verbal irony or satire.

Satire - A work that reveals a critical attitude toward some element of life to a humorous effect.

Syntax/sentence variety - Grammatical arrangement of words. This is perhaps one of the most difficult concepts to master.

Theme - The central idea or message of a work. The theme may be directly stated in nonfiction works, although not necessarily.

Thesis - The sentence or groups of sentences that directly expresses the author's opinion, purpose, meaning, or proposition.

Tone - A writer's attitude toward his subject matter revealed through diction, figurative language and organization.

Argument - An argument is a piece of reasoning with one or more premises and a conclusion.

Aristotle's Rhetorical Triangle - The relationships, in any piece of writing, between the writer, the audience, and the subject.

Aristotle's (or Classical) Appeals - The goal of argumentative writing is to persuade an audience that one's ideas are valid, or more valid than someone else's. Aristotle divided all means of persuasion (appeals) into three categories - ethos, pathos, and logos.

Ethos (credibility) means being convinced by the credibility of the author.

Pathos (emotional) means persuading by appealing to the reader's emotions.

Logos (logical) means persuading by the use of reasoning, using true premises and valid arguments.

Concession - Accepting at least part or all of an opposing viewpoint. Often used to make one's own argument stronger by demonstrating that one is willing to accept what is obviously true and reasonable, even if it is presented by the opposition.

Deductive argument - An argument in which it is thought that the premises provide a *guarantee* of the truth of the conclusion. The premises is so strong that, if the premises are true, it would be impossible for the conclusion to be false.

Inductive argument - An argument in which it is thought that the premises provide reasons supporting the *probable* truth of the conclusion. The premises are intended only to be so strong that, if they are true, then it is unlikely that the conclusion is false.

Fallacy A fallacy is an attractive but unreliable piece of reasoning. Many types of fallacies exist. These are a few:

Ad hominem: Latin for "against the man". Personally attacking your opponents instead of their arguments.

Appeal to authority: The claim that because somebody famous supports an idea, the idea must be right.

Appeal to the bandwagon: The claim, as evidence for an idea, that many people believe it, or used to believe it, or do it.

Non Sequitur: A conclusion that does not follow from its premises; an invalid argument.

Appositive - A word or group of words placed beside a noun or noun substitute to supplement its meaning.

Clause - A grammatical unit that contains both a subject and a verb.

Independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

Dependent, or subordinate clause cannot stand alone as a sentence and must be accompanied by an independent clause.