

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignments

In order to prepare for the AP Language and Composition course, you will need to do a few assignments over the summer.

The reading of these texts must be completed when you return to school in August. Summer reading is very important to the AP Language program.

Please read all of the information carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand. Have a parent or guardian read the information as well.

Warm regards,

Ms. Leunika Davis

1. Summer Reading Requirements

- a. Purchase your own physical copy of each book and bring it to school on the first day of class.
- b. Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font.
- c. Each assignment should include the MLA heading on the left side of the page.

2. Big

- a. See the additional handout on Google Classroom for details.

Thank You for Arguing

This book will serve as your introduction into the world of rhetoric. The author will explain basic terminology and principles to you in a series of humorous anecdotes. You will find yourself laughing aloud at times. Complete the following written assignment:

- i. Write a 5-7-sentence summary of the overall main idea of this book. Within this summary, include 3-5 main points the author makes (most important, or ones you find most interesting). This needs to be a tight, concise, accurate paragraph of writing. Avoid critique at this point; just focus on short description that has specific main points. You must include textual evidence in your discussion.
- ii. What do you think was the author's goal in writing this book? Did s/he achieve it? Did she/he convince you of his/her point of view on the topic discussed? Did reading this book change your thinking on the topic, and if so, how? If not, why not?
- iii. Write a short book review (5-7 sentences) for this book. Pretend you are trying to convince someone you know (who is reluctant) to read it. Be creative! Include at least one interesting thing about it; here is where you get to put in your opinion. It is okay to say you disliked it, but be attention-getting (humor, satire, irony, strong critique are all appropriate). Write in the style of Stephen Colbert, John Stewart, Saturday Night Live, The Onion, or other news parody critical commentary shows. (i.e. don't be silly just to be silly; make a point.)

4. Terminology for AP Language and Composition

You can familiarize yourself with these terms by creating flashcards using 3x5 ruled index cards or by studying them on my Quizlet account. They are the basis of rhetorical analysis, which is a vital skill in order to be successful in this class. When you return to school in the fall, please be prepared to take a quiz in order to access your mastery of these terms.

Anaphora	The repetition of words at the beginning of successive clauses.
Antimetabole	The repetition of words in an inverted order to sharpen a contrast.
Antithesis	Parallel structure that juxtaposes contrasting ideas.
Appositive	A word or phrase that renames a nearby noun or pronoun.
Archaic diction	The use of words common to an earlier time period; antiquated language.
Assertion	An emphatic statement; declaration. An assertion supported by evidence becomes an argument.
Assumption	A belief or statement taken for granted without proof.
Asyndeton	Leaving out conjunctions between words, phrases, clauses.

Authority	A reliable, respected source—someone with knowledge.
Chiasmus	a rhetorical device in which certain words, sounds, concepts, or syntactic structures are reversed or repeated in reverse order.
Close reading	A careful reading that is attentive to organization, figurative language, sentence structure, vocabulary, and other literary and structural elements of a text.
Colloquialism	An informal or conversational use of language.
Complex sentence	A sentence that includes one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.
Counterargument	A challenge to a position; an opposing argument.
Cumulative sentence	An independent clause followed by subordinate clauses or phrases that supply additional detail.
Declarative sentence	A sentence that makes a statement.
Idiom	a word or phrase that is not taken literally, like “bought the farm” has nothing to do with purchasing real estate, but refers to dying. Avoid idioms in your writing.
Imperative sentence	A sentence that requests or commands.
Inversion	A sentence in which the verb precedes the subject.
Juxtaposition	Placement of two things side by side for emphasis.
Metonymy	Use of an aspect of something to represent the whole.
Occasion	An aspect of context; the cause or reason for writing.
Polemic	An argument against an idea, usually regarding philosophy, politics, or religion.
Polysyndeton	The deliberate use of a series of conjunctions.
Premise	Two parts of a syllogism. The concluding sentence of a syllogism takes its predicate from the major premise and its subject from the minor premise. Major premise: All mammals are warm-blooded. Minor premise: All horses are mammals. Conclusion: All horses are warm-blooded (see syllogism).
Refute	To discredit an argument, particularly a counterargument.
Rhetorical modes	Patterns of organization developed to achieve a specific purpose; modes include but are not limited to narration, description, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, definition, exemplification, classification and division, process analysis, and argumentation.

Scheme	A pattern of words or sentence construction used for rhetorical effect.
Sentence patterns	The arrangement of independent and dependent clauses into known sentence constructions—such as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.
Simple sentence	A statement containing a subject and predicate; an independent clause.
Style	The distinctive quality of speech or writing created by the selection and arrangement of words and figures of speech.
Subordinate clause	Created by a subordinating conjunction, a clause that modifies an independent clause.
Syllogism	A form of deductive reasoning in which the conclusion is supported by a major and minor premise (see premise; major, and minor).
Syntax	Sentence structure
Synthesize	Combining or bringing together two or more elements to produce something more complex.
Understatement	Lack of emphasis in a statement or point; restraint in language often used for ironic effect.
Zeugma	A construction in which one word (usually a verb) modifies or governs—often in different, sometimes incongruent ways—two or more words in a sentence.
Fallacies	
Ad Hoc argument	giving an after-the-fact explanation which doesn't apply to other situations. Often this ad hoc explanation will be dressed up to look like an argument.
Ad Hominem argument	From Latin meaning “to or against the man”, it is the strategy of attacking the character the people you disagree with rather than the substance of their arguments. In politics, this is called “mudslinging.”
Begging the question	a logical fallacy in which the claim that is made is based on grounds that are in doubt.
Circular reasoning	This mistake in logic restates the premise rather than giving a reason for holding that premise.
Either/or argument	A way to simplify arguments and give them power is to reduce the options for action to only two choices. Often, the preferred option is drawn into a favorable light, whereas the alternative is cast as an ominous shadow. The either/ or argument becomes fallacious, however, when it reduces a complicated issue to excessively simple terms or when it is designed to obscure other legitimate alternatives.
Hasty Generalization	A person who makes a hasty generalization draws a conclusion about an entire group based on evidence too scant or insufficient.
Non sequitur argument	This Latin phrase means “does not follow.” A non sequitur is an argument in which claims, reasons, or warrants fail to connect logically; one point does not follow another.

Post hoc argument	This fallacy cites an unrelated event that occurred earlier as the cause of a current situation.
Straw-man argument	Here is a technique common in election season. The speaker/writer attributes false or exaggerated characteristics or behaviors to the opponent and attacks him on those falsehoods or exaggerations.

The following words are imperative to know in AP Language and Composition. Be sure

Alliteration	The repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of consecutive words or syllables.
Allusion	An indirect reference, often to another text or an historic event.
Analogy	An extended comparison between two seemingly dissimilar things.
Anecdote	A short account of an interesting event.
Antecedent	The noun to which a later pronoun refers.
Argument	The speaker's position on a subject as revealed through his or her tone.
Attitude	A statement put forth and supported by evidence.
Audience	One's listener or readership; those to whom a speech or piece of writing is addressed.
Bias	Prejudice or predisposition toward one side of a subject or issue.
Cite	Identifying a part of a piece of writing as being derived from a source.
Claim	An assertion, usually supported by evidence.
Connotation	That which is implied by a word, as opposed to the word's literal meaning (see denotation).
Context	Words, events, or circumstances that help determine meaning.
Denotation	The literal meaning of a word; its dictionary definition.
Diction	Word choice.
Ethos	A Greek term referring to the character of a person; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see logos and pathos).
Figurative language	The use of tropes or figures of speech; going beyond literal meaning to achieve literary effect.
Hyperbole	Exaggeration for the purpose of emphasis.

Imagery	Vivid use of language that evokes a reader's senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing).
Irony	A contradiction between what is said and what is meant; incongruity between action and result.
Logos	A Greek term that means "word"; an appeal to logic; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see ethos and pathos) .
Metaphor	A figure of speech or trope through which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else, thus making an implicit comparison.
Oxymoron	A figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms.
Paradox	A figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms.
Parallelism	The repetition of similar grammatical or syntactical patterns.
Pathos	A Greek term that refers to suffering but has come to be associated with broader appeals to emotion; one of Aristotle's three rhetorical appeals (see ethos and logos).
Personification	Assigning lifelike characteristics to inanimate objects.
Purpose	One's intention or objective in a speech or piece of writing.
Rhetoric	The study of effective, persuasive language use; according to Aristotle, use of the "available means of persuasion."
Rhetorical question	The study of effective, persuasive language use; according to Aristotle, use of the "available means of persuasion."
Satire	An ironic, sarcastic, or witty composition that claims to argue for something, but actually argues against it.
Simile	A figure of speech that uses "like" or "as" to compare two things.
Speaker	A term used for the author, speaker, or the person whose perspective (real or imagined) is being advanced in a speech or piece of writing.
Subject	In rhetoric, the topic addressed in a piece of writing.
Thesis statement	A statement of the central idea in a work, may be explicit or implicit.
Tone	The speaker's attitude toward the subject or audience.
Topic sentence	A sentence, most often appearing at the beginning of a paragraph, that announces the paragraph's idea and often unites it with the work's thesis.
Voice	In grammar, a term for the relationship between a verb and a noun (active or passive voice). In rhetoric, a distinctive quality in the style and tone of writing.

