

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

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Hello and welcome to AP English Language and Composition! We are looking forward to an amazing year with you! We'll be talking about diction, style, grammar, syntax, tone, literary devices, argumentation, and rhetoric. Of course, we will also be preparing to take the AP Language and Composition exam next Spring.

In preparation for our academic adventure, we would like you to complete two assignments this summer. Here's a guess on how much time you will need to complete the assignments: maybe 3-5 hours to read the book, 1-1.5 hours to write the reflection, and maybe an hour to complete the assessment activity.

1. Summer reading assignment

- a. Choose one of the books from the list of choices. The books we've selected are fun, interesting, and engaging. You can probably find many of these titles at the library; however, you might want to buy a copy, as your summer reading book is likely to become a cherished possession. Having chosen and obtained (and cherished) your summer reading book, why not go crazy and read it?
- b. Write a reflection about the book you read. The minimum length of your reflection should be the equivalent of about 1.5 - 2 typed, double spaced pages. Your reflection should include a summary of what you read, an assessment of the author's main points, and a discussion of the relevance or applicability of the text. We are really interested in what you think and have to say – We are not at all interested in what can be copied and pasted from SparkNotes. **Your reflection is due on the first day of school next year. Your teacher will provide a way to turn the assignment in.**

2. Skills assessment -

- a. We'd like to start the year knowing a little about your grammar and usage skills. We are using a skills assessment developed by Arcadia University and available to the general public. It identifies the 10 top most common mistakes found in college writing.
- b. Go to this web site: <http://placement.acadiau.ca/login/index.php>
- c. Log in - User Name = English; password = quizzes. The log-in is case sensitive; make sure you use a capital E in English.
- d. Click on preliminary test A1.
 - i. Scroll to the bottom and click "re-attempt quiz"
 - ii. Answer the questions to the best of your ability. When you have finished, click "submit all and finish."
 - iii. Write down your total score and make a note of error messages for any questions you answered incorrectly. Don't worry about getting the answers 100% correct; we are trying to help you become a better writer, so we need to know if areas for improvement exists.
- e. Repeat the process for preliminary tests B1 and C1
- f. Bring the results with you to the first day of class.

AP English 11 Summer Reading Choices**Books about Grammar, Syntax, and/or Style**

1. The Elephants of Style : A Trunkload of Tips on the Big Issues and Gray Areas of Contemporary American English by Bill Walsh
2. Lapsing Into a Comma : A Curmudgeon's Guide to the Many Things That Can Go Wrong in Print--and How to Avoid Them by Bill Walsh
3. Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation by Lynne Truss
4. Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English by Patricia T. O'Conner
5. Things That Make Us [Sic] by Martha Brockenbrough
6. Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know about Writing by Patricia T. O'Conner

Books about Language

7. The Story of English: by Robert McCrum, Robert MacNeil, William Cran
8. Do You Speak American? By Robert MacNeil and William Cran
9. The Lexicographer's Dilemma: The Evolution of 'Proper' English, from Shakespeare to South Park by Jack W. Lynch
10. You Are What You Speak: Grammar Grouches, Language Laws, and the Politics of Identity by Robert Lane Greene
11. The Secret Life of Words: How English Became English by Henry Hitchings
12. The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language by Steven Pinker
13. The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature by Steven Pinker
14. Spoken Soul: The Story of Black English by John Russell Rickford

Books about Rhetoric and Argument

15. Words Like Loaded Pistols: Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama by Sam Leith
16. The Trivium: The Liberal Arts of Logic, Grammar, and Rhetoric by Sister Miriam Joseph
17. The Aims of Argument by Timothy W. Crusius and Carolyn E. Channell
18. Everything's an Argument by Andrea A. Lunsford, John J. Ruskiewicz, and Keith Walters