

AP Language and Composition—Summer Reading Assignment 2018-2019

Objective:

Most of the reading material for AP Language and Composition comes from nonfiction sources. Nonfiction varies significantly, in style and purpose, from its fictional counterpart. Because AP English Language and Composition is a deviation from the typical English class, the following summer assignment is designed to offer you an opportunity to familiarize yourself with this type of study and to gauge your prior knowledge and skills. This is not a mandated assignment, but a chance to start out the year with an increased score.

Assignment:

Select two books from the list of nonfiction books to read this summer. For each book, write a one-page analysis of two rhetorical strategies or techniques applied in the book then explain the author's purpose or message. Finally, describe how a strategy or technique conveys the author's message and the effect. (Can be the same as above or different). Typed work is required; you will be uploading it to Google Classroom once we have visited the lab and signed up to use Google with your DPS Google email account. (Rhetorical techniques and strategies: **diction, syntax, imagery**, tropes, schemes, allusions, anecdotes, causal argument, definitional argument, parallelism, reasoning, evidence, parody, satire, **tone**, shifts, etc...)

One-page requirements:

MLA heading, MLA bibliography of the book you read, a paragraph summarizing the message, and a paragraph that cites and analyzes two rhetorical techniques or strategies from a specific excerpt you found interesting. The two citations must follow MLA formatting for in-text citations.

Reading List Suggestions:

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks—Rebecca Skloot

The Emerald Mile—Kevin Fedarko

Seabiscuit: An American Legend—Laura Hillenbrand

Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius—David Eggers

Life is So Good—George Lawson

Zoo Keeper's Wife—Diane Ackerman

Me Talk Pretty One Day—David Sedaris

Dead Wake—Erik Larson

Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone—Rajiv Chandrasekaran

Flags of Our Fathers—James Bradley with Ron Powers

Dreams From My Father—Barack Obama

Under the Banner of Heaven—Jon Krakauer or other novels by Krakauer

A Short History of Everything—Bill Bryson

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking—Susan Cain

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers—Mary Roach

On Writing—Steven King

Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen—Julie Powell

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History—Elizabeth Kolbert

(Or other **approved** nonfiction book. If unsure, see Mr. Silvers or Mr. Sheehan before the end of the year.)