

AP Language and Composition
Summer Assignment

AP English Language and Composition is a writing class. Since engaging writers are generally insightful readers, we will start our coursework by reading. There are six parts to this assignment. We'll collect the written responses and give the quiz during the second week of school. Summer is seductive, but it is really in your best interest to do this a little at a time. It's going to be hard if you let it go until 30 August. Purchase a notebook that you can use for all of your assignments. ALL MATERIAL SHOULD BE TYPED. TIMES NEW ROMAN SIZE 12 FONT. NO EXCEPTIONS.

The books are available in local book stores, on-line, or in public libraries.

1. **As you read, keep a list of words that are new to you. Define them and give their parts of speech. Accumulate 100 new words – that's only 10 words a week.**
2. **Read The Elements of Style by Strunk and White. Read it all, but especially think about Part II and Part V. Since this is a book about grammar, give yourself plenty of time to read it so that the ideas can marinate. After you read this, write me a friendly letter. Let me know if you see any ways the book's advice appeals to you.**
3. **Read The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. Cisneros writes in a way that clearly marks her work as her own. After you finish reading the book, write a short paragraph outlining some of the things you noticed about her style, that is, about the way she writes. Then, choose a chapter – any chapter. Imitate her style as you write about the same subject matter: your siblings, your neighborhood, your family's hair, sad friends, four skinny trees. . . Just be sure to give the number of the chapter you choose. and don't write anything so personal that you would be embarrassed if your piece were to be read aloud.**
4. **Read The Life of Pi by Yann Martel. Keep a dialectal journal as you read. For Part One, select 5 quotes that are interesting and copy the quotes on the left hand side of the page; write about what you notice about the writing on the right hand side of the quote. Collect five quotes for Part I; Collect 7 quotes/reactions from part II and 5 quotes/reactions for Part III. Additionally, see if you can figure out what he does in his writing to make it so interesting.**
5. **Read Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott. You can read the whole book if you want, but we're only assigning pp. xi-xxx (the Introduction) and pp. 3 - 43. There will be a test on this book.**
Here are the test questions:
 - Why is Bird by Bird the title?**
 - Why does Lamott keep a 1" picture frame on her desk?**
 - How does Lamott characterize first drafts?**
 - How important is it for a first draft to be perfect?**
 - Why is Lamott talking about polaroids?****Bonus Question: After Lamott has written words, sentences, paragraphs, sometimes pages, in what activity does she frequently engage?**
6. **Read Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser. Write a two page review of this book. How does the author reveal information that you were not aware of? What did you learn from reading this? How has this changed your view of fast food?**
7. **Read an issue of one of these magazines The New Yorker, Harper's (not Harper's Bazaar) Atlantic Monthly, Smithsonian, or Natural History. Then write a letter (two pages) responding to what you have read.**

Even though it may not seem like it, we wish you a lazy, memorable, and safe summer.