

PALMYRA HIGH SCHOOL

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

This course's goal lies in preparing you for the world of citizenship outside the classroom. In order to do so, the College Board describes the course as follows: "An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

The course often allows students to write in a variety of forms – narrative, exploratory, expository, argumentative – and on a variety of subjects from personal experiences to public policies, from imaginative literature to popular culture. Therefore, [it] emphasizes the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context. . . . Its purpose is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers."

With the above course description excerpt in mind, students entering AP English Language and Composition in 11th or 12th grade must complete the following reading and writing assignments:

READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *"They Say / I Say." The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing.* 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.
2. Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America.* New York: Henry Holt, 2001. **(This book is for the school year. Please order it now – we will be using it later in the course. If you choose to read it over the summer, that is fine.)**

PICK ONE OF THE TWO MEMOIRS BELOW:

3. Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face.* New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994.

4. Dillard, Annie. *An American Childhood*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1987.

The books listed previously may be available at public libraries in the area or from the following sources:

• Borders Books (Route 22, Harrisburg near Target)

• www.bordersstores.com

• bn.com (Barnes and Noble website)

• amazon.com (new and/or used)

• half.com (through ebay – you may purchase new and/or used books)

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Dillard and Grealy's books are memoirs. Determine the writer's purpose in the book you have read. How does the writer use language to achieve that purpose? Draft a **paragraph or two** discussing the use of rhetorical strategies used in the book to deliver the purpose of the writing. For help with rhetorical strategies, check out <http://www.virtualsalt.com/rhetoric.htm>. Please type these paragraphs (double spaced) and turn them in as a short essay.
2. For the reading of "They Say / I Say," keep a **journal** for **ALL chapters**. Write down comments about anything you find interesting, confusing, logical, etc. This is informal and may be handwritten. You may discuss how you have applied these ideas into your own writing or how you may apply them to future writing. **Avoid summarizing the chapters**. Each journal entry should be clearly labeled and at least 1 to 2 paragraphs in length.
3. At the end of each of the first 10 chapters, there are exercises. Please pick 5 of these exercises to complete. Please label them clearly and turn them in when we return to school. They should be typed and double spaced.
4. Read a newspaper throughout the summer; collect five (5) articles and five (5) editorials. Write a paragraph summary (typed) of each of the news articles and a two-paragraph reaction (typed) to each of the editorial articles.

To begin to create a foundation of examples and ideas to support the arguments you will be asked to make, you need to start reading a newspaper during the first half of the summer (July 1st is a good goal date to start reading).

Five (5) News Articles

Newspapers are collections of many different types of information. That is why this portion of the summer reading assignment is divided into two parts. For the first part, just select a news article from the first section of the paper. It does not have to be a front-page article, but it should be a news article from the first section. You will need to collect five (5) of these, and they need to be from five (5) different days. Cut the out (make sure to write the publication date on the article after you've cut it out), and write a one-paragraph summary of the article.

Five (5) Editorial Articles

The editorial page of a newspaper contains articles expressing an opinion on any certain topic. Articles appearing on a newspaper's editorial pages represent the views of the newspaper's editor and/or its editorial board. Because these articles are opinions, they normally take the form of an essay. For this part of the assignment, cut out five (5) different editorial articles, and write two (2) paragraphs for each. In the first paragraph, summarize the author's argument. In the second paragraph, write your reaction to their argument. For maximum benefit, please try to select five (5) editorial articles from the same author. That way, you will be able to get to know the writer's point of view or his/her political viewpoint. See the attached example for help. The opinion section of *The Patriot-News* or the "Week in Review" section of the *Sunday New York Times* provide a great look at the main events and arguments of the week and can be found online. Please see below for suggested sites for editorial articles.

Recommended Editorialists & Useful Websites

Indymedia: an excellent place to start; includes a brief blurb as well as hyperlinks for a multitude of editorialists:

http://www.indymedia.com/mc/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=32&Itemid=94

USA Today: <http://www.usatoday.com/>

* DeWayne Wickham

Wall Street Journal: <http://online.wsj.com/public/us>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

* Anna Quindlen

* Thomas Friedman

Los Angeles Times: <http://www.latimes.com/>

Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

* Bruce McCall

* Dan Carney

New York Daily News: <http://www.nydailynews.com/>

Chicago Tribune: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/>

New York Post: <http://www.nypost.com/>

Long Island Newsday: <http://www.newsday.com/>

Houston Chronicle: <http://www.chron.com/>

Denver Post: <http://www.denverpost.com/>

Boston Globe: <http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/>

Miami Herald: <http://www.miamiherald.com/>

* Leonard Pitts

* Dave Barry

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THESE ASSIGNMENTS UPON RETURN TO SCHOOL.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OVER THE SUMMER, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

HOME EMAIL: bmell6@aol.com

SCHOOL EMAIL: barbara_mellinger@pasd.us

CELL PHONE: 717-443-7108

This packet is also available at my Moodle site accessed via Palmyra Area School District's main web page.

I realize these assignments may seem overwhelming. You have all summer to do them, and I would be happy to discuss any questions you may have either over the phone or by email. Pace yourself. Avoid waiting until the end of the summer to tackle these. You will do much better on the readings and writings if you spread them out throughout the summer.

Enjoy your summer vacation! Good luck!!

Mrs. Mellinger