

2020 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT
AP English Language and Composition
Mrs. Robinson
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Welcome to AP English Language and Composition!

The AP English Language and Composition course emphasizes a mix of politics, history, social sciences, current events, and nonfiction prose. This class is different from most English classes you have taken before. You will be required to analyze writing, develop sound reasoning and argumentation, as well as examine the power of language.

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: *"The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text—from a range of disciplines and historical periods."*

With the above course description excerpt in mind, students entering AP English Language and Composition in 11th or 12th grade must complete a Summer Reading Assignment. The Summer Reading Assignment must be completed by the **FIRST** day of the course – August 31, 2020. Students will be assessed on their readings.

During the 2020-2021 school year, students taking AP English Language and Composition will have two opportunities to earn college credit:

- 1) Students may take the AP English Language and Composition Exam scheduled for May 12, 2021.
- 2) Students may earn 3 college credits as dual enrollment via Harrisburg University.

More information regarding the AP Language and Composition exam and Harrisburg University dual enrollment will be provided during the first week of the 2020-2021 school year.

If you have any questions during the summer, don't hesitate to contact me via my school email address: sara_robinson@pasd.us.

Have a GREAT summer!

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Nonfiction Text

Directions: Select **TWO** of the texts below to read over the summer. Be prepared for an assessment/project the first week of the course on the texts you have chosen. All of the texts are available electronically or in paperback new/used on Amazon.com. Prices vary. Some of these texts are available in the Palmyra High School and Palmyra Public Libraries. Depending on the texts you choose, consider reaching out to students who have previously taken this course as they might lend you their copies.

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard

102 Minutes: The Unforgettable Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers by Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by In America by Barbara Ehrenreich

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

Autobiography of a Face by Lucy Grealy

The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Between a Rock and a Hard Place by Aron Ralston

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls

Hiroshima by John Hersey

Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis by Robert F. Kennedy

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History by Erik Larson

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business by Neil Postman