

Intro to AP Language/Summer Reading/Nonfiction Novel Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition!

I am looking forward to meeting you all and working with you in the Fall as we take a deep dive into the world of writing and reading nonfiction; however, before our course officially begins, I wanted to reach out to you and prepare you for what the course will look like.

This class is designed to help you understand, analyze, and explain the practices related to nonfiction writing. You will do this through learning key concepts and strategies as well as writing your own analyses of nonfiction texts and crafting your own nonfiction writing. We will be reading several narrative (memoir), technical, historical, and argumentative nonfiction texts throughout the year. We will also be responding to these texts with both short and longer written responses of our own.

While you will be required to memorize some key concepts such as vocabulary and grammar, the majority of the work you will be doing in this course is skill-based including the ability to analyze, synthesize, and argue. This requires exposure to nonfiction and practice with evaluating it - both in the form of shorter and longer works. ***This leads us to what I expect from you over this summer.***

I do want to be forthright in saying that summer is a good chance for all of us to take a break from a long year of hard work, and hopefully you've been doing just that. You should take this chance to recalibrate. Enjoy this time. Focus on hobbies that you like and try out a few new ones. Relax and recharge. Visit loved ones you haven't seen. Take this time for yourself. My hope is also that a part of this leisure time is reading books that you like. Studies show that students who want to maintain the reading level they left school with in the Spring should read about 1-2 books at their leisure over the summer. This means finding 1-2 books that you enjoy and reading them as you enjoy them (if you need help with finding books that you truly enjoy, please reach out and I can offer you some good recommendations). This is simply the bare minimum of healthy reading habits, and dedicating some time to this habit every now and then over the summer will be helpful because we will be reading independently everyday when you come back in the Fall.

Aside from building these healthy habits around reading, we also have to include some intentionality to help you build the skills that will make you successful in this class. Because of this, you have a summer reading ***opportunity***. ***I am allowing you the option to complete a reading assignment - which will be due in the first semester of our school year - over the summer rather than during the school year.*** Some of you will decide to wait and do this in the Fall and some of you will decide it's better to get it out of the way in the Summer; there truly is no *better* option overall. It's just about having options for your own schedule. ***This assignment will be due before Thanksgiving break with no exceptions.***

Your nonfiction novel assignment consists of the following:

- A. Read over the book descriptions from the [Nonfiction Book List](#) to find a book you would enjoy. Each book can only be selected twice (Select your book by emailing me with the title. **NOTE: Once you email me, you are pretty well set on that book**).
 - a. If you see that a book is striked through, that book has been selected twice.
 - b. You'll notice that you can find these books in our high school library and/or in our classroom library. You are not obligated to purchase these books with your own money, though you can if you would like to keep them and make marks on them. If you are purchasing them, I would encourage you to find them on [thiftbooks.com](#) as most of them are under \$5. This is by no means a requirement and will not influence your success in any way. You may physically check out these books from our high school library by getting in touch with our librarians, our classroom library by getting in touch with me, and you can find some of these books in our elibrary by accessing Overdrive (go to Student/Staff Portal>Destiny>Sparta High School>Overdrive and type in your lunch number to find which books are available on Overdrive).
 - c. Some of these are available via audiobook on Overdrive and I am okay with you using that option as well.

- B. Keep a dialectical journal for your book with at least 15 entries. Dialectical means “a discourse between two or more people holding differing points of view about a subject but wishing to establish truth.” You’ve probably known this previously as annotations where you annotate the text with questions, connections, predictions, reflections, evaluations, etc. This is exactly that but in journal form.

In your journal, you'll include two components: the passage you are quoting and your own commentary on the passage. I'm looking to see that you are truly trying to make sense of what the author is saying by sharing your own perspective and searching for an ever-present truth centered in both of your perspectives and in the world around you. This is designed to encourage high-level thinking, close reading, and metacognition.

Example Dialectical Journal Entry

Page #	Quote	My Thoughts
(Leopold 176).	“The trophy-recreationist has peculiarities that contribute in subtle ways to his own undoing. To enjoy, he must possess, invade, appropriate. Hence the wilderness that he cannot personally see has no value to him. Hence the universal assumption that an	Aldo Leopold is talking about how, if you enjoy nature for the consumption of nature, ironically, you'll end up destroying the exact thing you love. There's an art in conservation. There has to be an appreciation in letting go of possessions and not being in control because that is what allows nature to replenish. There's a quote I like that goes like, “The day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit” and it

	<p>unused hinterland is rendering no service to society. To those devoid of imagination, a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part. (Is my share in Alaska worthless to me because I shall never go there?)</p>	<p>reminds me of the last sentence “Is my share in Alaska worthless to me because I shall never go there?” Sometimes what feels like sacrifice - denying instant gratification or taking the slower, more difficult pathway - is actually what leads to more fruitful results. This, however, requires some release of authority. I think people who plant gardens and live with nature are more keenly aware of this.</p>
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Some Ideas If You're Struggling:

- Passages/paragraphs you don't understand or have to look up
- Passages/paragraphs that make you think about people, places, things you know
- Passages/paragraphs that seem to be extremely well-worded
- Moments where you really have to consider who the author is as a person
- Moments where you really have to consider the context
- Moments where you strongly agree or disagree with the author

C. Create a rhetorical terms dictionary. Choose twenty words from the list below. Keep a table that includes the term, a definition of the term in your own words, and an example of the term from your book. You should define them in your own words to the best of your ability; I understand that most of these you will need to look up, but still try to put them into your own words. **NOTE** that some of these terms such as diction, tone, or syntax are ever-present and therefore you should include *what type* the example is demonstrating (i.e. formal, vivid, simple, concrete, abstract, etc. for diction).

I would encourage you to pick your terms and define them before reading. This way, you will notice some of these devices naturally as you read and you won't have to hunt them down later. Some of these will likely, however, require some thinking as analyzing rhetoric this way is somewhat of a skill and a practice and you are just beginning.

Allusion	Ambiguity	Anaphora	Anecdote
Antecedent	Antithesis	Apostrophe	Circumlocution
Connotation	Didactic	Diction	Deductive Reasoning
Euphemism	Exposition	Hyperbole	Fallacious Reasoning
Metonymy	Oxymoron	Paradox	Inductive Reasoning
Parody	Refutation	Rhetorical Mode	Rhetorical Question
Satire	Syllogism	Syntax	Tone
Verisimilitude	Voice	Anadiplosis	Anastrophe
Chiasmus	Ellipsis	Epistrophe	Litotes
Synecdoche	Zeugma	Juxtaposition	Aphorism

Example Rhetorical Terms Dictionary Entry

Term	Definition	Example
Diction	A writer's choice of words in written language or speaker's choice of words in verbal language	"Somewhere near by, the hen plover is brooding the four large pointed eggs which will shortly hatch four precocial chicks. From the moment their down is dry, they scamper through the grass like mice on stilts, quite able to elude your clumsy efforts to catch them" (Leopold, 35). -Descriptive, elevated diction

Things To Note:

- When you submit this assignment, it should be in a Google Doc with proper MLA citations for all quotes (author's last name and page number in parentheses). You will have 15 entries into your dialectical journal and 20 entries in your rhetorical dictionary.
- I will be looking to see that you cover the beginning, middle, and end of the book. I'm not looking to see that you've evenly distributed entries between sections; I'm looking to see that you read the entire book.
- Again, you must send me an email confirming your book selection with me and no more than two students can select the same book. If you have a nonfiction book in mind that you would like to read, please run it by me and I will let you know if it will work for this assignment. I would like it to be a book you have not read before.
- A reminder that you are not required to complete this assignment over the summer. It will be due before the end of November. I will give you reminders to complete it in the Fall, but we will not dedicate class time to it if you decide to complete it in the Fall. You will need to complete it on your own time.
- If you have any questions about this assignment, reading suggestions over the summer, or other concerns before we meet, feel free to reach out to me at anoethewolford@spartan.org. I will be around for the majority of the summer; however, I do take the occasional trip without access to cell signals (I just returned from Alaska where the one cell phone tower evidently wasn't Verizon's). I will be gone the first part of August, so do not be alarmed if I haven't responded for a few days. I will return your email as soon as I'm able.