

AP LANGUAGE SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Dempsey – Ms. Galambos – Ms. Hayes

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Welcome to AP Language

This class is a bit different than traditional English classes. We'll do a great deal of nonfiction reading, especially shorter pieces like speeches, essays and editorials that present an argument. During the year, you'll learn to analyze these arguments and the deliberate decisions authors make in order to persuade their audience. Prepare to be challenged; sometimes the reading and writing can be confusing. Because of this, we'll work on your reading comprehension skills and analytical abilities throughout the year.

In order to make the most of our time, the following assignments must be completed over the summer. If you have questions, please email either of us at the addresses listed above. We will check our email periodically throughout the summer.

Part I – Reading and Writing: Due by email no later than August 28, 2019 (first day of school)

Please read Stephen King's *On Writing* and take notes on King's numerous suggestions about the writing process. Then read **ONE** of the following books through the lens of King's writing recommendations:

- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (memoir)
- *Educated* by Tara Westover (memoir)

Once you've finished your reading, choose **three** of King's suggestions about writing and discuss how his recommendations are exhibited in *The Glass Castle*, **OR** *Educated*. Your response must be between 600 and 800 words, typed and double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font. This assignment will be **due via email no later than August 28, 2019 (first day of school)**. You will be graded according to the following rubric:

Summer Assignment Part I Rubric

	Possible Points
Three stylistic/instructional points identified and discussed	15
King's points clearly linked to the book	15
Organization and focus is clear	10
Supporting evidence/quotations are provided	20
Appropriate language and tone are evident	10
Document follows MLA Format (see OWL at Purdue website)	10
Student uses sentence variety and clear transitions	10
Grammar and mechanics are polished	<u>10</u>
Total possible points:	100

Part II – Editorial Analysis Journal: Due on the first day of school – NO exceptions

One goal of the AP Language course is to become an informed citizen. This being said, we want you to become educated, participating members of our communities – from local government to U.S. politics to issues affecting our planet. In order to work towards achieving this goal, we'd like you to do the following:

Collect **FIVE** editorials from at least three different credible newspapers or magazines. Examples include *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *Time* magazine, etc. Editorials may **not** be from a personal blog or anonymous web site. Please be aware that editorials are not news stories, and they **cannot** be letters to the editor.

In a ½ inch, three-ring binder, please do the following for EACH of the five editorials:

Include a copy of the editorial. (4 points) THEN number and answer the following questions for each editorial.

- 1) Include a well written and detailed summary of the editorial. (4 points)
- 2) What paragraph(s) from the editorial is/are the strongest? Cite the evidence, then explain why you believe this to be true. (4 points)
- 3) What paragraph(s) in the editorial is/are the weakest? Cite the evidence, then explain why you believe this to be true. (4 points)
- 4) What do YOU think about this issue? Be sure to **explain your reasoning**. This last question is an important part of AP Language, as you need to be able to formulate your own opinions and support your ideas with clear and detailed reasoning. (4 points)

Total possible points: 20 points per editorial x 5 editorials = 100 points

Checklist:

- ➔ You must compile your editorial journal in a ½ inch three-ring binder.
- ➔ Your name must be clearly displayed on the front cover of the binder.
- ➔ Your responses must be typed and double spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font.
- ➔ **It goes without saying that your final journal submission should be neat and organized.** Your effort and level of detail will be a reflection of your character and your commitment to the AP Language course.

A note about plagiarism:

All work submitted must be your work and yours alone. While collaboration has its place, it is **not accepted** for the two summer assignments. You will have to take the AP Language exam alone, and these two projects are designed to help you develop your ability to think on your own.

That being said, assignments that appear to be plagiarized will receive a zero. Plagiarism consists of copying another student's written work or giving another student your work. Plagiarism occurs when you submit someone else's ideas or writings as if they were your own.

Any assignments that are plagiarized will be handled according to the Whitman-Hanson Student Handbook. You will receive a zero for the assignment, and there will be no opportunity for make-up.