

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignments
Please join the Summer Google Classroom: yol6fyi

Assignments are due August 23rd, 2019. If you will not be in class this day, turn your assignments in to turnitin.com. We will give you the turnitin class code the first week of school.

Welcome to AP Language and Composition. This AP English course emphasizes a mix of politics, history, social sciences, current events and non-fiction prose reading and writing. This class is different from most English classes you have taken before; it will ask you to analyze writing, and develop sound reasoning and argumentation so that you can better write about and discuss issues, as well as examine the power of language. This summer assignment offers you a chance to create a database of information you will use throughout the school year.

The more you actively engage in reading, writing and viewing prior to taking this class, the more comfortable you will be in the class. We will be referring to the summer reading texts and films throughout the course, so you are encouraged to annotate your reading (take notes in the text), which will be valuable for in-class activities, comprehension, and retention. We are happy to help you throughout the summer. Please don't wait until the last minute to complete these assignments. If you have any questions, please feel free to come see one of us before the end of the school year (room B201 for McGraw and room A209 for Jewett-Rogers) or email us throughout the summer:

amcgraw@blaineschools.org and ejewett@blaineschools.org

Please email both of us, and one of us will reply, usually within a few days.

All written work EXCEPT notes from *Thank You for Arguing* should be typed and submitted to turnitin.com.

Read the first 13 chapters of Jay Heinrichs' *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion*.

Although the rest of the book is not required for your summer reading assignment, you are encouraged to complete the reading in full; it is an excellent introduction to the foundations of AP English Language and Composition.

You are encouraged to buy this book. There are three editions of the book and any edition is fine. Iconoclast Books in Hailey (behind Java in the Meriwether Building) will have the most recent edition, and they are offering a 10% discount.

We have a few used copies for \$4 each. We also have copies you can check out from us, but you will not be allowed to write in them.

While reading the first 13 chapters, you need to annotate (take notes in the margins) your copy of the book. Also, at the end of each chapter, create a bulleted list of the most important concepts of that chapter. There is room on the page to do this. If you borrow a book from us, you will not be able to write in the book. You will have to use sticky notes for your annotations.

If you are not sure what to put on your bulleted list, feel free to refer to the Essential Questions (see below) for ideas.

Essential Questions for each chapter are available [here](#).

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WcRLFPsySbkbpTUUjLB0YAX9iKKyR0JeISCM3KP995M/edit?usp=sharing>

In Addition to *Thank You for Arguing*, read Five Current Op-Ed Articles from a reputable news source. Some options are listed here:

(*The New York Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/section/opinion>,
The Wall Street Journal <https://www.wsj.com/news/opinion>,
The Mountain Express <https://www.mtexpress.com/opinion/>,
Idaho Statesman <https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/>,
Twin Falls Times-News <https://magicvalley.com/news/opinion/>,
Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/>,
The New Yorker's "Daily Comment," etc.)

Be aware that when you go to these sites, they might limit your free visits each month. Ideally, you will do these throughout the summer, not all in one sitting. A goal of this is to stay aware of what is going on in the world while you are out of school for a few months!

An op-ed is an opinionated editorial article, usually about issues in the news at the moment.

Read the article, determine what the topic is and what the author's opinion is on that topic. Type the following:

- Identify the author's claim (argument/opinion) and write it in your own words
- Find 2-3 quotations in the article which help prove that you have understood the author's claim.
- In your own words, briefly explain how those quotations connect to the author's claim.
- Write a correct MLA citation of this source (use NoodleTools to help you format the citation correctly).

If you are signed up to read Dave Eggers's *The Circle* and attend his two sessions at *The Sun Valley Writers' Conference*, you do NOT have to do the op-ed assignment above.

Instead, you will read your copy of *The Circle*, attend the Pavilion talk on July 21st and the luncheon with Dave Eggers on July 22nd.

The only written assignment for this option is to do your author talk response (see below)

Author Talks: We require that you attend three author talks throughout the year. These must be completed before the AP exam in May. There are many GREAT opportunities for you to attend author talks during the summer. If you're in town, take advantage of the great speakers and free admission!

After attending an author talk, type up a ½ page or longer response including highlights from the session, your opinions (did you agree or disagree with what was said), any interests he/she sparked or questions you have.

Sun Valley Writers' Conference

Please try to attend any open Pavilion session at the Sun Valley Writers' conference, July 20-23. Admission is free with your student ID. See svwc.com for more information and a copy of their program.