



SAINT IGNATIUS

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AP Language and Composition: Summer Reading Assignment 2021

Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow.

-Oliver Wendell Holmes

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! This is an exciting class that will ask you to look closely and question the world around you as you make your way through a variety of non-fiction readings. This summer reading assignment is designed to give you an introduction to the type of reading you will experience and the degree of close reading you will do throughout the course.

AP Language & Composition, according to The College Board's course description, "engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes." Sounds like what you have done in English class the past three years, right? While we will go deeper and explore different areas than you have before, everything comes back to growing as critical readers and effective writers.

We want to make ourselves available to you now, over the summer, and throughout the following school year. We will check our email over the summer. In the fall, know that our doors will always be open to you. We also encourage you to consult your classmates; as AP students, we know that intellectual honesty is as important to you as it is to us, but also keep in mind that your peers are excellent brainstorming partners, peer editors, and supportive friends.

This class requires you to delve deeply into the readings, to question the writer's intent, purpose and bias, and to grapple with the issues the writer presents. With this in mind you will have two major assignments over the summer. Do not wait until the last minute to complete these assignments. You will not be able to read on the intense level the assignment requires if you wait until the last week of summer vacation to complete this assignment.

Your book for this summer reading assignment is: *On Writing 10th Anniversary Edition, A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King.

Assignment 1: Read and annotate the book. Be an active reader. You can do this with sticky notes or directly in the book. If you have an e-book, then take notes as you read. You will annotate everything you read in AP Language and Composition, so this is an important skill to practice over the summer.

Reading and constructing meaning from a text is a complex and active process; one way to slow down and develop critical analysis skills is to annotate the text as you read. What you annotate in this class will most often be left up to your own discretion.

Suggestions for annotating text can include labeling and interpreting literary devices (metaphor,



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simile, imagery, personification, symbol, alliteration, metonymy, synecdoche, etc.); labeling and explaining the writer's rhetorical devices and elements of style (tone, diction, syntax, narrative pace, use of figurative language, etc.); or labeling the main ideas, supportive details and/or evidence that leads the reader to a conclusion about the text. Of course, annotations can ALWAYS include questions that you pose and comments regarding connections to other texts that you make while reading.

The following list of things to think about/look for will help you with this task:

1. Reader Response: Be able to trace your reactions, to ask questions in class, to remind yourself when you find answers to earlier questions. This should help note the writer's effectiveness.
2. Speaker: Think about who the writer is and what he/she knows is communicated. This should help you decide the author's credibility.
3. Occasion: Think about what caused the author to write about this topic and whether or not it is a valid reason.
4. Audience: Think about what kind of person or people the author intended as the audience and whether or not the author is able to connect with that audience effectively.
5. Purpose: Think about the author's purpose in writing this book and whether or not he or she is effective in that purpose.
6. Subject: Think about what the book is discussing and whether or not the author shows why the subject is important.
7. Authorial Devices and Structures in the Argument: Think about the author's techniques in delivery and how effective the author's methods are for rhetorical purposes--the use of subtitles, patterns, style, structure, etc.

** You do not need to type and prepare each of these sections, but these are elements that we will discuss in class. Your focus to these elements are essential to this work and this course. **

Assignment 2: On Writing by Stephen King: Have you ever wondered: "Did the author mean to do that?" King's book, which is subtitled *A Memoir of the Craft*, provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction to this book, "What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done" (King xv). In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. (This analysis is a major component of the work we will do in AP Language.) For each task below, please include proper MLA documentation and citation for the passages discussed. These must be typed (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced).

Task #1:

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e. imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associate with fictional pieces. Identify three passages in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. Explain the elements/techniques he uses and why they are effective.



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Task #2: Toolbox: Create a writer's toolbox for yourself. Identify seven rules of writing that King discusses (include the page number), which you think are important or interesting. As you select them, think about your own strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Please number your selections 1-7. Then add an additional seven rules of writing which you have either practiced or been taught throughout your school career. Example: Don't begin a sentence with "and." In class, we will discuss the merit of these various "rules."

Task #3: This task does not pertain to just this section of the book. Rather, explain your opinion of King as both a writer and a person. Would you consider reading one of his books now, for example? (If you have read his books prior to this assignment, has your opinion of the author changed? If so, how?) What do you think King's purpose was in writing this book? Support your answers to both prompts with documented evidence from the text.

Assignment 3: College Essay

It is in your best interest to get a rough draft of this started before our first day of classes in August. In order for us to get a sense of your skill as writers, and to help you get a head start on the college application process, you will submit a formal draft of a college application essay. Your draft should include the prompt and application for which this essay is being used. You will receive a grade for this essay as well as feedback on how to improve it. The college essay is due the first day your scheduled class meets.

Assignments 1-2 are due on the first day your class meets. The college essay will be due the second day your class meets. Failure to turn in these assignments will put you in a very deep hole before the year even begins. There will be no excuses for non-completion. Remember that AP Language and Composition is a college-level course and there are certain behaviors expected from all students in this class; responsibility and maturity rank highly among them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch over the summer. Enjoy your reading, and we will see you in the fall.

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