

AP Language Summer Reading Assignments

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Two required assignments

- 1) a) Read *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves* by Lynne Truss.¹ Be prepared to analyze the book in terms of its discussion of how technology affects reading and writing and just what grammar is worth. (*Do NOT read the children's book or illustrated versions of this book!*) We will write a paper and complete a dialectic journal after school starts.
b) You are also required to complete a technology assignment related to this book. On my class website (listed above), you will find a link to a website called www.nicenet.org. When you go to this website, you will click on Students Join a Class. Your class name is **AP Lang 2011-2012**. You must enter the following class key: **23Z528ZA64**. Once you enter the class key, you can create your own FREE profile. *You MUST use your first and last name as your profile name or you will not receive credit for this assignment. After creating your profile, click on conferencing to see new posts from me. There will be three posts that you must answer during the summer. DUE DATE: you must have responded to all three posts before the first day of class or you will not receive credit.
- 2) Newspaper/magazine editorial reading assignment- The purpose of this assignment is to introduce you to the focus of AP Language: analyzing non-fiction. Throughout the course, you will be required to keep up with current events. This assignment introduces you to the process of looking for reliable, accurate news sources.
 - a) Get a three-prong folder. This will serve as your journal. Over the summer, read, clip and place into your journal at least five editorials or commentaries/essays (all nonfiction, *not news articles or informative features*) from reputable newspapers or issues-based magazines. Editorials means the articles should assert the writer's opinion about a topic. The articles you choose should be about relevant current events happening in the world. You should use at least three different sources (i.e. not all five pieces should come from the same newspaper/magazine). DO NOT USE SOURCES SUCH AS USA TODAY, PEOPLE, SEVENTEEN, ETC. BLOGS ARE NOT RELIABLE SOURCES, EITHER.
 - b) Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines (most, if not all, of which you can access online, sometimes by signing up to the website for free):
 - The New York Times (N)
 - The Washington Post (N)
 - The State (N)
 - The Herald-Journal (N)
 - The Post and Courier (N)
 - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (N)
 - The Miami Herald (N)
 - The Los Angeles Times (N)
 - The New Yorker (M)
 - Atlantic Monthly (M)
 - Harper's (M)
 - The Economist (M)
 - Newsweek (M)



TIP: Go ahead and purchase a pocket-sized dictionary that you can bring with you to class everyday during the school year.

I recommend The Merriam-Webster Dictionary...about \$8 at B&N.

¹ Copies can be obtained from any major bookseller or online. Or buy someone's from last year! You can find it in the public library, but we will use the book during the first few weeks of school; it is more convenient if you can purchase a copy.

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- c) Then, after putting the article in your folder, handwriting your responses in your journal, comment on *the aspects* of each of the editorials that made you think and *your thoughts* about the editorial or the issues—one response per editorial. Responses should be one full front page. It is sometimes helpful to consider choosing editorials with which you disagree (makes you think more). Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:
- Do you agree or disagree with the editorial's viewpoints? Why?
 - Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
 - What are some of the author's best arguments? What makes them good?
 - Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
 - How does this editorial connect with other knowledge that you have from other sources?
 - Anything else this editorial makes you think about...
- d) Grading procedure—you will not receive credit if your work is not neatly arranged in your folder. It must be handed to me at the beginning of the first day of class. Responses must be thoughtful, accurate, and appropriate. If it looks like a rush job, your grade will reflect that. If you choose not to complete this assignment, do not be surprised if you cannot earn an A or a B for the 1st 9 weeks.

For Optional Extra Credit

- 1) Purchase or rent a copy of *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. Write an essay comparing the book's content and tone to Lynne Truss.
- 2) Read any of the memoirs listed below. A) Write an essay analyzing how the writer used language to convey a purpose and how effective the book is, or B) make a poster visually representing the major themes of the book, or C) keep a journal of major quotes from the book and your reactions to them.
 - All Over But the Shoutin'
 - The Glass Castle
 - The Things They Carried
 - The Color of Water
 - Into Thin Air
 - My Losing Season
 - Me Talk Pretty One Day
 - On Writing
 - Reading Lolita In Tehran
 - The Year of Magical Thinking
 - Autobiography of a Face
 - A Million Little Pieces
 - Angela's Ashes
 - An American Childhood
 - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek
 - A Perfect Storm
 - Class Matters
 - Nickel and Dimed
 - Faith of my Fathers
 - Dreams from my Father
 - Going Rogue
 - Final Salute
 - Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer

*please be aware that some of these book choices might include more graphic language or subject matter than others