



2009-2010 Advanced Placement

Language and Composition Summer Reading

Or..... a time when you take charge of your education, become an independent learner, and begin to read and write with purpose and for fun.

"AP English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

"[The course] allows students to write in a variety of forms-narrative, exploratory, expository, argumentative-and on a variety of subjects from personal experiences to public policies, from imaginative literature to popular culture. Therefore, [it] emphasizes the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context....Its purpose is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers" (The College Board).

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In preparation for the study of argument, rhetorical strategies, and stylistic devices, voracious reading of a variety of authors and styles will powerfully assist your development as a critical reader and writer. So...

The following assignment(s) will be due the second class period we meet of the 2009-2010 school year and will count as a homework grade.

1. Read John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath and be prepared to write about and discuss it.
2. Read a book-length memoir, biography or autobiography of your choice.
(2-6 hours depending on student choice)
3. Write a two page typed essay that includes the following:
 - ◆ a 5-7 sentence summary of the memoir,
 - ◆ an explanation of how it connects to your life or to society,
 - ◆ and an analysis of one or more of the book's stylistic elements (tone, diction, syntax, organization, etc.).
 - ◆ Use MLA style: 12 point Times New Roman double-spaced, or if handwritten, use ink, double-spaced and increase to four pages. (1-2 hours)
4. Find a photograph, other graphic, or memento that represents the book or any part of it. Be prepared to discuss in class. (.5 hour)

