

Dear Students,

Welcome to AP Language and Composition. In order to prepare for an English class that is different from your prior years, there is some summer work required. The goal is not to burden you with work during vacation, but to help you shift the lens through which you read and write and think, as this is a reading, writing, and thinking-intensive course!

There are two main components of the summer work:

**Part 1**

Read and take marginal notes (if you purchase the book) or sticky-note notes (if it's borrowed) on one book from the list below. You are not just highlighting or underlining, you are interacting with the text—your thoughts become words in the margins, on the sticky-notes. (You will need to bring the physical book with you to class for the opening weeks of school.)

*When Breath Becomes Air* Paul Kalanithi

*Between the World and Me* Ta-Nehisi Coates

*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning* Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi

*One Summer* Bill Bryson

*The Price of Privilege* Madeline Levine

*Outliers* Malcolm Gladwell

*Columbine* David Cullen

*Nickel and Dimed: on (not) getting by in America* Barbara Ehrenreich

*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* Barbara Kingsolver

**Part 2**

Follow a CURRENT news topic that begins in the month of June (or if there is a major event in June to an on-going story, you can start there). Read newspaper articles, watch television news, read blogs, websites, social media feeds, etc. All of these make up the conversation that is happening in the media about your topic. Plan to bring in at least 4 samples of the ongoing conversation. Please vary them: so not all hard news. Have an opinion piece, a hard news article, a link to Trevor Noah's latest commentary, you get the idea. These should be marked up with marginal notes—again, not highlighting and underlining, but your thoughts in words, interacting with the texts, literally on the text, making connections. For success in this course (and in life) we will work on: developing an awareness of the world around you; becoming a consumer of news in a variety of its forms and all perspectives.

Please let us know, via email, which book you choose by July 10. In a short paragraph, explain why you are choosing that text. This will show us who can follow directions!

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**Unsure what to put in those marginal and sticky-notes? Here are a few questions to get you going!**

- What is the subject?
- What is the author's position on the subject? How can you tell?
- What is the specific message the author/speaker is trying to convey? (That's the purpose!) To whom is he/she directing this message? (That's the audience!)
- What is the author's attitude towards the subject of the piece? (That's the tone!) How can you tell?
- Look for passages that stand out for you in some particular way. Mark them. What's distinctive about them? (This is craft!)

We hope you enjoy interacting with these texts and we look forward to sharing them with you in the fall!

Best,

Mrs. Leveroni and Mrs. Styche