

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Projects:

The summer reading project is based on three texts chosen by the student from the list below and includes one independent reading project. Since all of the books are based on real life situations and personages, on occasion, the situations and language at times can be a bit raw. All of these texts, however, are widely acclaimed and present the needed ingredients for student success in their reading projects. I have noted those texts which some may find questionable. Please remember, students choose one from each section.

THE ESSENTIAL ARGUMENT: ELECTRONIC PROJECT: CHOOSE ONE:

This assignment provides the introduction to one key concept of the course, the rhetorical triangle: ethos, logos, pathos. Students will do an electronic project examining the text in terms of the triangle.

Outliers by Malcom Gladwell focuses on what makes people successful.

Half-Earth; Our Planet's Fight for Life by E. O. Wilson focuses on current environmental struggles. *(shared with AP Environmental, contact Ms. Rose for her assignment)*

The Mayflower: A Study of Courage, Community, and War by Nathaniel Philbrick examines US history from the landing of that ship through King Phillip's War. # *(shared text with APUSH, contact Ms. King for her assignment,)*

CONVERSATIONS: ASSESSMENT IS TBD: CHOOSE ONE

These books focus on developing conversations as well as arguments. I recommend the book They Say/I Say, 2nd Edition for this section especially. The assessment will be based on principles developed in that book.

The Mind's Eye by Dr. Oliver Sacks is a series of case histories focusing on visual deficits. *(Might be of interest for AP students or anyone interested in perception or neurology)*

Lives of a Cell by Lewis Thomas is a collection of essays focused on biological and evolutionary quirks and oddities. * *(AP Bio students might find this especially interesting)*

In the Heart of the Sea Nathaniel Philbrick is the story of the stories surrounding an incident which involves (among other things) a collision between a whale and a ship in the 1800s.

QUESTIONS OF STYLE: IN CLASS ESSAY EXAM: CHOOSE ONE

The assessment for this section will focus on a rhetorical analysis of one passage.

A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle, explores the French countryside and cuisine. *(Some language (very occasional)).*

Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt explores his Irish American history and heritage. *(Some language and situations.)*

The Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe brings his own unique perspective to the early origins of the space program. This was made into an Oscar nominated movie. *(Some situations and language.)*

Summer Reading Assignment Summary:

Over the summer, students will develop one independent project, based on a chosen text that focuses on how that author develops his or her and the work's ethos, logos, and pathos. This first project will take the form of an electronic media presentation that will be submitted no later than the first day of class in September.

The rest of the books will be assessed through exams.

Over the summer, students will maintain contact with the instructor no less than twice through e-mail with the goal of having indicating which books will be read and to have specific questions answered. The first contact deadline is the first week of August. Students are allowed a maximum of four contacts over the summer.

AP student criteria: three books, each different: electronic project
Assessment Rubrics can be found on-line on web site or by request.

+electronic ethos projects can be in video, power-point, blog, or other format, just contact me.

#=National Book Award for Non-Fiction

*=Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction

@=Nobel Prize winner