

11th Grade AP English Language and Composition
2017 Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Advanced Placement Language and Composition. This year will be unlike any English class you have taken; the class will push you further than you have been pushed and students taking this class should be prepared to operate outside of their comfort zone. The journey will be arduous, yet will be more rewarding than any other challenge you have faced. Both the rigor and reward of the class comes from its design as a college level freshman composition course. As a college level composition course this class will focus on the art of careful and well crafted communication, through intensive writing and reading. The overarching goal of this course is to give you the tools to join the academic conversation, to be able to understand and write prose of complexity and depth which allows you to communicate sufficiently with mature readers.

The summer reading assignment has been designed to help you achieve these goals. I am asking you to read a collection of essays this summer titled *The Eloquent Essay: An Anthology of Classic and Creative Nonfiction*, edited by John Loughery. As you read the collection this summer, take notes on the essays and annotate them, paying particularly close attention to the author's purpose, the means by which she achieves that purpose, and how effective the piece is in reaching its audience. The week we return from summer vacation there will be an essay on the collection, and you will be able to use your notes/annotations. Our school library also has copies of the text for you to borrow over the summer.

Further, this class, like a college level comp course, is also going to challenge you to become more articulate and coherent writers, and to that end, there is also a writing assignment to go along with your summer reading. I have created an Edmodo for our class. I know many of you have signed up for Edmodo with other classes; please sign up for our Edmodo using the access code **dtfvwa**. (Please be sure to do so soon—the access code will expire).

I will create posts on our Edmodo for you to respond to the essays. As you read the essays, I'd like for you to post your reactions to four of the essays on the discussion board. These reactions can be significant quotations with your reactions to them, an analysis of how an author uses language to convey her ideas, an evaluation of whether the arguments in an essay are relevant to our world today, or a response generated by questions you may have. I would like for you to have **two responses** posted by **July 31**, and **two responses** posted by **August 31**. Keep in mind that these postings are my first impression of you as a writer and thinker, and while I'm not expecting them to be perfect, I am expecting that they accurately reflect your drive, hard work, and willingness to take intellectual risks; therefore, I am expecting that these response be longer than one or two paragraphs. You are AP students, and your responses should reflect the drive and intellectual curiosity an AP student possesses. These responses will serve as grades when you return in September.

If you have any questions or concerns, please visit me in room C-1, or email me at vitalec@lcmrschools.com.