

English 11: AP Language & Composition

Summer Reading: 2019

Students enrolled in Eng. 11 AP are asked to complete the following two assignments:

I.) *The Power and the Glory* – Graham Greene

- *“In the world of Graham Greene’s 1940 novel, *The Power and the Glory*, it’s a bad time to be a Catholic. The book’s hero is an unnamed priest on the run from Mexican authorities after a state governor has ordered the military to dismantle all vestiges of the religion. Churches are burned. Relics, medals, and crosses are banned. The price for disobedience is death. While many clerics give up their beliefs and accept their government pensions, the unnamed priest travels in secret, celebrating Mass and hearing confessions under the cover of night. Yet he’s also a gluttonous, stubborn, and angry man drowning in vices, and the religious ambition of his earlier years has been replaced with a constant desire to drink, hence Greene’s term for him: the ‘whiskey priest.’ Tired of risking his life, the priest even prays to be caught.”*
 - from Nick Ripatrazone’s “Revisiting *The Power and the Glory* During Lent,” *The Atlantic* (Feb. 14, 2016)

Task:

- Grab any copy of the book – the cheaper the better.
- Read Greene’s novel and complete a dialectical journal like the one found below. Focus your journal/reflection on the juxtaposition of the **lieutenant** and the **priest**, two major characters in the novel. Choose passages that you think speak to the themes of **faith, mercy, piety, or sin**.
- The Journal must have **ten** entries (passages and commentary)
- **Journal Reminders:**
 - Be sure to write the entire quote from the passage word for word. Include the page number and the date the quote was recorded. In the right column, write your response to the passage (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage). Push yourself for intelligent “conversation.”
 - Model your chart after the one below, which uses Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* as an example.
 - Typed or handwritten is fine. If done in a notebook, work must be legible.
 - **Due: first week of classes**

<p><u>Title of Work: <i>The Things They Carried</i></u></p> <p><u>Author: Tim O'Brien</u></p>	
<p><u>Quote from Source w/Page Number</u></p>	<p><u>Commentary: inference, insight, prediction, leverage question</u></p>
<p>“-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders-and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry”. Pg. 2 (6/22/10)</p>	<p>O'brien provides excellent visual details here of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day.</p>

II.) Opinion Column Assignment:

Assignment: As a means of analyzing rhetoric and staying abreast of public discourse issues, you'll read and analyze **6** columns from a newspaper's **opinion section**. Be sure to choose columns on issues that are serious but that also interest you. *Sports pieces are fine, so long as they cover broader, more important issues – equality, character, racism, etc. (Ranting about a particular player or team is not enough.)

Sources: A few of the newspapers you might use are *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *HuffPost*, etc. **You may read the online or printed edition.**

Note:*Most of the newspapers above require subscriptions to their online format. *The New York Times* allows visitors **5** free articles per month. It is generally considered a more liberal newspaper; however, writers like David Brooks, Bret Stephens, and Ross Douthat typically offer a more moderate perspective.

Question to consider while reading:

- How does the writer open the column? How is it closed?
- How soon is the thesis announced?
- How is the piece organized? What are the parts or sections of the column?
- How much is based on observation? Personal experience? Interviews? Fact?
- What sort of diction characterizes the columnist?
- What sort of syntax characterizes the columnist?
- What audience does the writer assume? How do you know?
- What unstated assumptions does the columnist make?

Written Component: After reading and analyzing, complete the following:

- Write a **one-paragraph précis** modeled after the example below.
- Follow the précis with a **subjective response**.
 - The response should include your reaction to the piece – your thoughts on the argument presented as well as the rhetorical strategies and stylistic techniques you find interesting. Response should be a strong paragraph of **at least 5- 7 sentences**.
 - Google Docs are fine. Due first day of class.

Example précis:

- The **first sentence** identifies the column's author and title, provides the column's date in parenthesis, uses some form of the verb "says" (claims, asserts, suggests, argues) followed by "that," and the essay's thesis (paraphrased or quoted).
- The **second sentence** describes the author's support for the thesis, usually in chronological order.

Example: *Rauch supports his position by providing anecdotal and historical evidence culled from segments of society which illustrates the futility and harm associated with attempts to eliminate prejudice.*

- The **third sentence** analyzes the author's purpose, using an "in order to" statement.

Example: *Rauch hopes to shift the paradigm away from absolutism, the idea of punitive action against racism and prejudice, in order to move society toward rejection, the idea of societal pressure when grappling with racist and prejudicial attitudes.*

- The **fourth sentence** describes the essay's intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes.

Example: *The author uses an erudite yet defensive tone indicating that he primarily addresses a rather liberal intellectual audience.*

****This is to be followed by the subjective response.**