

AP English Language & Composition Summer Assignment 2019-2020

In order to prepare for AP Language and Composition, you will need to continue practicing your critical reading and writing skills throughout the summer. You will have one major assignment to complete for class and some vocabulary to learn for the start of the year. Hopefully you will also do some reading and writing of choice as well.

If you have questions over the summer about the course, your books, or the assignments, check out either of the course websites:

www.aplangbricker.blogspot.com or www.aplangclark.blogspot.com. There you'll find all kinds of resources AND your summer assignment posted. Add it to your favorites now as it will be an integral part of our class next year.

Please read this document thoroughly and email either Mrs. Amy Bricker or Mrs. Laura Clark if you have any questions. Obtain your summer assignment books immediately, as you may have difficulty finding them at the last minute. Email one of the AP teachers by July 1, 2019 if you cannot purchase or find the books.

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Plagiarism: The school's plagiarism policy will be applied to any plagiarism for the summer assignment. You will not receive credit for plagiarism because you did not do the work. Furthermore, you may not make up the assignment. You may not use SparkNotes, Cliffsnotes, or any other materials to replace reading the actual book. This also means you may not use information from these websites for your paper (i.e. direct quotes or paraphrasing). **You may not use materials from another student. Do not work collaboratively on this assignment.**

Required Texts:

1. **A memoir from the list attached**

Purchase your own copy because you will need it to read over the summer and the first nine weeks of school.

Classroom Texts:

1. **The Language of Composition 2nd Edition by Renee H. Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Dissan Aufses**

This text is meant to help you understand rhetoric and grammar rules and rhetoric that will help you in your writing and analysis. It is also an anthology of essays we will incorporate in class.

2. **50 Essays: A Portable Anthology, 2nd or 3rd edition by Samuel Cohen**

This text is an anthology of essays that we will use **throughout the school year.**

Assignment #1:

Choose one of the memoirs from the list attached, and critically and closely read the text. Keep in mind that your author, in some way, shape, or form, is creating an argument here. Your job is not to agree or disagree with him/her necessarily, but as a student of language and composition, you should *critique* his/her argument. Read closely to determine what the argument is, how the author constructs it, and the strategies he/she uses in order to persuade his reader to believe it.

- You need to TYPE a **two-paragraph summary** of the author's main idea/argument in chapter 1.
- You need to TYPE a **two-paragraph summary** of the author's main idea/argument in chapter 2.
- You need to choose one quote/passage from **each** of the subsequent chapters (chapters 3-the end). The quotes you choose should focus on the main ideas of the chapters. These should be the passages that capture the essence – the true meaning – of the text. **Each quote also needs to be accompanied by a TYPED paragraph response.** In each paragraph you need to:
 - explain how the passage "fits" into the chapter.
 - discuss the importance of the passage to the chapter's main argument.
 - react to the passage as a reader. Make me understand **WHY** you have selected this passage.
- Considering that some of these books have multiple short chapters and to be fair to all students, we require that a **minimum** of 20 quotes be completed (for chapters 3-end). For example, if your book has 40 short chapters, then combine a few chapters to complete 20 quotes.

To generate responses, you can consider the following:

- Why does the passage impress, intrigue, horrify, or puzzle you?
- Do you find the author's use of language appealing or powerful? Does the passage jump off the page as a great descriptive passage?
- Does it prompt a strong response from you as you read it? Does it present itself as so well-crafted that you just love the sound of it? Is the language beautiful, descriptive, graphic?
- Is it particularly meaningful?
- Do you find yourself in agreement/disagreement with the ideas expressed?
- Does the passage remind you of a situation you have lived as well?
- Does the passage make you laugh out loud? Melancholy? Something else?
- Does the author raise intriguing questions or issues?
- Does the passage challenge or expand your thinking?

You are not limited to the above list, and I do not expect you to answer all of the above. Your responses to the passages should clearly explain to me **WHY** these passages mean something to you, **WHY** these passages caught your attention, and **HOW** these passages illustrate the author's ideas.

See next page for example quotations and response.

Example Quote	Example Response
<p>Passage taken from “A Plague of Tics” from <i>Naked</i> by David Sedaris</p> <p>According to her calculations, I had left my chair twenty-eight times that day. “You’re up and down like a flea. I turn my back for two minutes and there you are with your tongue pressed against that light switch. Maybe they do that where you come from, but here in my classroom we don’t leave our seats and lick things whenever we please. That is Miss Chestnut’s light switch, and she likes to keep it dry. Would you like me to come over to your house and put my tongue on your light switches? Well would you?”</p>	<p>In this passage, Sedaris depicts a humiliating yet typical moment in his educational experience as a young child. The passage is humorous and also a bit melancholy. Miss Chestnut clearly does not understand that her usual tactics will not work under these circumstances. She uses sarcasm to convey her displeasure with his behavior and also addresses herself in the third person. Neither of these methods will get through to someone as sick as Sedaris who is not in control of his actions. While the situation is humorous because we can imagine Miss Chestnut’s frustration and confusion, it is also sad because no child would want to be chastised by an authority figure. Most likely Miss Chestnut has not been trained to handle a child with these special needs. It is unclear yet whether she will be a sympathetic figure in Sedaris’ life. Sedaris highlights the ignorance of OCD in the education system during this period in history.</p>

Assignment #2:

Familiarize yourself with these terms and examples of each. You do not have to turn in any work, but it would be a good idea to create note cards. Please be prepared to take a test on these vocabulary terms during the first week of school.

Allegory	Colloquial/ism	Figurative language	Oxymoron	Satire
Alliteration	Complex sentence	Figure of speech	Paradox	Semantics
Allusion	Concession	Hyperbole	Parallelism	Simile
Analogy	Connotation	Hypophora	Parody	Simple sentence
Anaphora	Context	Imagery	Pathos	Style
Anecdote	Counterargument	Imperative sentence	Pedantic	Syllogism
Antithesis	Cumulative sentence	Induction	Periodic Sentence	Synecdoche
Aphorism	Declarative sentence	Inference	Personification	Tone
Apostrophe	Deduction	Inversion	Polemic	Topic sentence
Assertion	Denotation	Irony	Polysyndeton	Trope
Assumption	Diction	Juxtaposition	Propaganda	Understatement
Asyndeton	Diacope	Litotes	Refute	Undertone
Attitude	Didactic	Logos	Rhetoric	Voice
Bias	Ethos	Metaphor	Rhetorical question	Wit
Chiasmus	Euphemism	Metonymy	Sarcasm	Zeugma

***The Beautiful Struggle* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Paul Coates was an enigmatic god to his sons: a Vietnam vet who rolled with the Black Panthers, an old-school disciplinarian and new-age believer in free love, an autodidact who launched a publishing company in his basement dedicated to telling the true history of African civilization. Most of all, he was a wily tactician whose mission was to carry his sons across the shoals of inner-city adolescence—and through the collapsing civilization of Baltimore in the Age of Crack—and into the safe arms of Howard University, where he worked so his children could attend for free.

Among his brood of seven, his main challenges were Ta-Nehisi, spacey and sensitive and almost comically miscalibrated for his environment, and Big Bill, charismatic and all-too-ready for the challenges of the streets. *The Beautiful Struggle* follows their divergent paths through this turbulent period, and their father's steadfast efforts—assisted by mothers, teachers, and a body of myths, histories, and rituals conjured from the past to meet the needs of a troubled present—to keep them whole in a world that seemed bent on their destruction.

With a remarkable ability to reimagine both the lost world of his father's generation and the terrors and wonders of his own youth, Coates offers readers a small and beautiful epic about boys trying to become men in black America and beyond.

***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

***The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonseo Lee**

An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom.

As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonseo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom and, as the famine of the 1990s struck, she began to wonder, question and to realize that she had been brainwashed her entire life. Given the repression, poverty and starvation she witnessed surely her country could not be, as she had been told “the best on the planet”?

Aged seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea. She could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family.

***Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance**

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.'s grandparents were “dirt poor and in love,” and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility. But as the family saga of *Hillbilly Elegy* plays out, we learn that this is only the short, superficial version. Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Vance piercingly shows how he himself still carries around the demons of their chaotic family history. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

The Invisible Girls: A Memoir by Sarah Theborge

After nearly dying of breast cancer in her twenties, Sarah Theborge fled her successful career, her Ivy League education, and a failed relationship, and moved nearly 3,000 miles from the East Coast to Portland, Oregon, hoping to quietly pick up the pieces of her broken life. Instead, a chance encounter on the train with a family of Somali refugees swept her into an adventure that changed all of their lives.

Half a world away from Somalia, Hadhi was fighting battles of her own. Abandoned by her husband, she was struggling to raise five young daughters in a culture she didn't understand. When their worlds collide with Sarah's, Hadhi and the girls were on the brink of starvation in their own home, "invisible" in a neighborhood of strangers. As Sarah helped Hadhi and the girls navigate American life, her unexpected outreach to the family became both a source of courage and a lifeline for herself.

Exquisite, at times shattering, Sarah's enthralling memoir invites readers into her story of finding connection, love, and redemption in the most unlikely of places.

All proceeds from the sale of the book go toward a college fund for the five Somali Invisible Girls. For details, visit www.sarahtheborge.com.

Manic: A Memoir by Terri Cheney

An attractive, highly successful Beverly Hills entertainment lawyer, Terri Cheney had been battling debilitating bipolar disorder for the better part of her life; and concealing a pharmacy's worth of prescription drugs meant to stabilize her moods and make her "normal." In explosive bursts of prose that mirror the devastating mania and extreme despair of her illness, Cheney describes her roller-coaster existence with shocking honesty, giving brilliant voice to the previously unarticulated madness she endured. Brave, electrifying, poignant, and disturbing, *Manic* does not simply explain bipolar disorder; it takes us into its grasp and does not let go.

You Don't Have to Say You Love Me: A Memoir by Sherman Alexie

When his mother passed away at the age of seventy-eight, Sherman Alexie responded the only way he knew how: he wrote. The result is this stunning memoir. Featuring seventy-eight poems, seventy-eight essays and intimate family photographs, Alexie shares raw, angry, funny, profane, tender memories of a childhood few can imagine--growing up dirt-poor on an Indian reservation, one of four children raised by alcoholic parents. Throughout, a portrait emerges of his mother as a beautiful, mercurial, abusive, intelligent, complicated woman. *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me* is a powerful account of a complicated relationship, an unflinching and unforgettable remembrance.

Alexie is an award-winning and prolific author and occasional comedian. Much of his writing draws on his experiences as a modern Native American.