

Suffolk Public Schools

AP Language and Composition

Summer Assignment 2017

Advanced Placement English Language & Composition is designed to be a rigorous preparation for college writing in all subjects. Students must achieve two goals: completion of the equivalent of the college freshman writing curriculum and preparation for the national AP exam in early May.

Summer Assignment:

Suffolk Public Schools wishes to promote a summer reading program to encourage critical reading of both classical and contemporary literature. The following mandatory assignments are designed to promote a serious academic attitude that demonstrates a high degree of self-discipline and self-motivation. **Each** of these assignments will count as a **quiz** grade for the first nine weeks.

ASSIGNMENT #1:

Read *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* by William Zinsser. After reading the text, pick at least 15 significant passages from the book (try to space them out evenly throughout the entire book). Record your thinking, the significance to you as a writer, connections, and/or questions raised. Your responses should be about 3-6 sentences. The journal should be typed, using 12 point font, Times New Roman. See examples below:

Dialectical Journal Format

<u>Significant Text</u>	<u>Analysis and Significance</u>
In the left-hand column, copy down quotes or brief passage from the book. BE sure to cite the page number in MLA format.	In the right-hand column, write your response to the quote. Why is it significant to you as a writer, what connections, questions or new ideas does it raise?

Dialectical Journal Sample

<u>Quote/Passage from On Writing Well</u>	<u>Analysis and Significance</u>
“The point is that you have to strip your writing down before you can build it back up. You must know what the essential tools are and what job they were designed to do” (18).	This reminds me of Stephen King’s advice to writers and his ‘tool box’ analogy. It seems that writers need to ‘know’ the rules in order to be able to improve their writing over a series of drafts. What can writers do to really learn these different tools and learn how to best utilize them to become better writers?

ASSIGNMENT #2:

Read Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood* or Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*. Compose a well-constructed, **typed** essay of at least 500 words that answers the question below.

Many works of literature deal with political or social issues. These authors capture the controversial nature and complications of true events. Explore and analyze the political or social issues in the non-fiction novel you selected. Then, write an essay in which you analyze how the author uses literary and rhetorical elements to explore this issue and explain how the issue

contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot. Use evidence from the novel to support your conclusions.

Due Date: The summer reading assignments are due on the **second day** the class meets in September with the exception of seventh block classes (seventh block -- due on the **fourth day** the class meets). **All written work must be typed double-spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font, and must include an attached coversheet.**

****Please note: Plagiarism will result in a grade of ZERO (0).****

Plagiarism “is the un-credited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas” (Owl of Purdue available at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>).

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Failure to document with quotation marks any material copied directly from other sources.
2. Use of others' work as one's own, particularly in the written expression.
3. Use of others' ideas as one's own for academic pursuits or profit.