

Summer Reading Assignments for 11th Grade AP: Language and Composition

1. For eight weeks of the summer, you will find one article from the editorial page of a newspaper such as the *Richmond-Times Dispatch*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. So you will analyze a total of eight articles. This should be an article by a columnist, not a letter to the editor. For each article you will provide the following:

*A paragraph summary of the article. Include the various arguments they use.

*A paragraph that discusses the techniques the writer uses to create the argument. Consider their word choice, their use of emotional appeals, their use of examples, their sentence structure, their use of their own credibility.

*A paragraph in which you provide a counter-argument. Try to refute (disprove) specific points that the writer raises.

Cut out or print (if you are using online version of the newspaper) the articles and attach to the written part.

2. Read the short essay “Puff the Magic Dragon” by Nick Hornby. This essay is from his collection of essays called *Songbook*. While all the essays in the book are based on a certain song, it is interesting that many of the essays are not at all about the song. Instead the song is used as a springboard into other, often much bigger, ideas. You’ll note that in the essay you’ve been given the song is mentioned only briefly; he incorporates it into his ruminations on his son’s disability. Your assignment is as follows: Using Hornby’s essay as a model, write an essay of at least two pages double-spaced in which you use a song as a way to write about something else. You can talk about the song as much as you like, but in the end song will serve to help you write about your topic.

Extra Credit Assignment

We will learn in this class that the term “rhetoric”, in its most positive sense, refers to the means of communication. To study rhetoric, as one textbook states, is to practice “the art of analyzing all the language choices that writer, speaker, reader or listener might make in a given situation so that the text becomes meaningful, purposeful, and effective.” Obtain and read a copy of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. The edition published by Barnes and Noble Classics is priced at \$4.95 at the store. The book is an amazing accomplishment given the circumstances of Douglass’ life. Answer the questions on the study guide you’ve been given. Next you will choose five paragraphs from the book to analyze for the use of rhetoric. For each paragraph, explain how Douglass uses language to persuade and to convey his ideas. Consider his use of the following: word choice, sentence structure, imagery, emotion, logic. For each section, write a paragraph explaining your observations. Try not to simply list your observations, but rather

explain the purpose of the choices the writer makes. In other words, how do the choices Douglass makes as a writer add to the meaning and purpose of the writing? Please note that you can only get the extra credit if you also turn in the mandatory summer assignments.

Grading

Each of the mandatory assignments is 50 points for a 100 point quiz grade. The essay you write based on the song is worth 50 points . Each newspaper assignment is worth 6 points (and no this doesn't add up to exactly 100—I'm no math teacher). Late summer reading assignments will be penalized 10 points per school day.

The two extra credit assignments for the Frederick Douglass book are worth five points each toward test grades for the first quarter. Once again, I will not accept the extra credit assignments unless you have done the mandatory ones.

The assignments are due on September 14th. The use of online sources that summarize books is in no way encouraged. We want you to have the experience of reading. Any subsequent assignments will require a genuine understanding and reading of the works. If you have any questions over the summer, you may email me at jmgolos@henrico.k12.va.us . I look forward to meeting you in September.

Please have a parent/guardian sign and return this acknowledgement.

I am aware of the summer assignment for AP 11 English for 2014

Signature _____

Date _____