

Summer Reading AP English Language and Composition (2 books and grammar)

Congratulations, you have shown the skill, the fortitude, and the desire to tackle the rigorous and rewarding AP English Language and Composition course! Your summer reading assignments are your first challenge to understand what it takes to be an AP English Language and Composition student—embarking on a year-long, college level course designed to engage you to become skilled readers and writers of prose.

Although I want you to enjoy your summer and “recharge” your batteries, you will complete the mandatory summer assignments: You will be graded (at the beginning of the school year-August), and we will use these assignments as our beginning “notebook” for our studies.

- ***Night* by Elie Wiesel (mandatory)**
- ***Thank you for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs.** The PDF of the book is in Schoology (the Materials folder). The assignment will be posted as such.
- ***Lab Girl* Hope Jahren (extra credit)**

Why I have chosen *Night* by Wiesel:

1. It is a Florida Education Law:
Required Instruction - 1003.42(f) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.
2. The other reason is that our studies will involve reading and writing about ethics and “the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping.” Reading Wiesel’s book is not only a lesson in history, not only a watershed publication, but also a way for you to examine your ideals.

Why you read *Thank you for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs:

1. There are a few words for this book: instructive and humorous. Ms. Keller’s former AP English students said they loved Heinrich’s style and learned A LOT (because much of what we will do is argument). Additionally, Heinrich has a captivating way of teaching rhetoric. It is required reading for AP Language and Composition students all over the country.
2. Although you have the option to read the entire book (suggested), our assignment is ONLY excerpts (certain chapters) of the book. For each chapter in the guide, take good notes by answering the questions (chapter by chapter) - See the assignment on Schoology.

For my readers: *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren

From the *New York Times* Book Review, March 28, 2016 Vladimir Nabokov once observed that “a writer should have the precision of a poet and the imagination of a scientist.” The geobiologist Hope Jahren possesses both in spades. Her engrossing new memoir, “*Lab Girl*,” is at once a thrilling account of her discovery of her vocation and a gifted teacher’s road map to the secret lives of plants...

By crosscutting between chapters about the life cycle of trees and flowers and other green things, and chapters about her own coming-of-age as a scientist, Ms. Jahren underscores the similarities between humans and plants — tenacity, inventiveness, an ability to adapt — but, more emphatically, the radical otherness of plants: their dependence on sunshine, their inability to move or travel as we do, the redundancy and flexibility of their tissues (“a root can become a stem if need be, and vice versa”).”

And, do not forget grammar!! Grammar Handout- KNOW IT! See Schoology for the handout.