

Advanced Placement Language and Composition Summer Assignment 2024

❖ Welcome ☺

This assignment is not only designed to help you prepare for the upcoming school year, but for your eventual AP English Language and Composition exam and college, where skills developed through avid reading are essential. Only the well-read student can respond knowledgeably and intelligently to the open essay questions on the AP exam, which is why summer reading is vital to your success, as is the need for **continuous brain exercise** during the summer months; in addition, here in NJ we are a bit behind our southern and western states counterparts, who start school earlier in the summer and therefore, have a month or so extra time to practice before the May exam. Here, you will find the instructional requirements and materials for your summer assignment. This assignment is due on the first day of school and carries your first major writing grade for the school year. Remember to pace yourself accordingly during the summer break, as I will recognize last-minute or incomplete work when I see it. You may wish to wait until August to read these, so they will be fresher in your mind.

The summer assignment for AP English Language and Composition not only indicates your willingness to work hard but it also measures your commitment to the course. AP English class is for students to enjoy the immersion in reading and explore rhetoric and non-fiction. If reading is not something you enjoy, this college-level course may have you reconsidering your junior English selection. An AP student is expected to put exceptional effort into all readings, as the workload will be consistent.

❖ Texts: *

In Cold Blood, Truman Capote

How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster

❖ Assignment:

1. Read Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*: annotate pertinent information you would like to address or discuss. These annotations (highlights, comments in margins, arrows, circles) will be checked first day back to school for credit. Use sticky notes on the pages if the book is not yours.
2. Obtain, closely read, and annotate (sticky notes) Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. Our reading in AP English Language and Composition will focus on non-fiction, argumentative writing; therefore, the book

selected for the summer reading assignment reflects that focus. As you read, consider that non-fiction writing explicitly or implicitly makes an argument. What is the main argument of this book? What does the author do to support that argument? What elements or techniques from your Foster reading relate to what the author of your non-fiction book is doing?

Then, your task:

MLA paper, 2-3 pages, three meaningful textual quotes for one of the following prompts:

- 1. How is Holcomb, Kansas described in this novel and how does the author's diction contribute?**
- 2. Is Capote for or against the death penalty? What elements of the novel detail, perhaps in a subtle fashion, his stance on the subject?**
- 3. Does the book make a distinction between what is legal and what is moral? Discuss how the book handles the relationship between law and morality.**

Be specific in your references to language and of course, proper citations.

As you know, plagiarism/ AI usage will not be permitted and will be met with disciplinary action and loss of grade.

I will send you an invite to the AP Lang class sometime in the summer, via school email.

Please email me should you have a question. Don't hesitate. That's what I'm here for ☺

*the high school library and the county library should have copies of these books; Amazon should also have used copies for much reduced prices; the annotations within the book help you learn and therefore, jotting and marking up your own book is requested (sticky notes work too, if the book is not your own).

Ms. Kalemba ☺