

AP Lang Summer Assignments

Mr. Brown

Email: philip.brown@lf.k12.de.us

Remind Code: @dfck4e

Hello! I hope all of you are enjoying the start of this summer. I am sure it is a little different than most summers we have experienced, but I am also sure everybody will adapt as best as possible. The students here are very resilient, so I am sure all will be prepared, and ready to go in August. I am very excited to be your AP Language teacher for the upcoming school year. AP Language is an exciting, yet challenging, course that is taught at a collegiate level. Assignments are expected to be individual, your best work, and on time. There will probably more writing than most are used to completing, but it truly gets easier as the year progresses, and this becomes more of a standard routine for the class.

The Language test itself consists of 55 questions (all multiple choice with 5 options) that you have to answer in 60 minutes. Then, there are 3 essays, one involving your building an argument, one a rhetorical analysis of a short written piece, and one that is a synthesis using outside sources. When you finish the test (offered in May), it gets sent off to the College Board, where it gets scored. AP scoring is simple: You will receive a 1-5 score. Many colleges accept the score of 3 for some sort of college credit (often elective). Many colleges will give you more for higher scores. It depends on the institution.

It is imperative for you to complete these assignments. Not completing them puts you behind the eight ball for the first marking period, and it is a constant hole from which you are trying to dig out.

Assignment One: Rhetorical Dictionary

Construct a rhetorical dictionary. I'd suggest you set this up as a graphic organizer in a word document (but handwritten is fine):

1. Find a list of rhetorical literary devices online. Some suggested places:

- a. <https://blog.prepscholar.com/ap-language-and-composition-terms>
- b. https://yale.learningu.org/download/f10e0a0e-1866-4958-9058-11e84f35ad24/H2976_APEngLangGlossary.pdf

2. Set up a table with 3 columns: Column 1 should have the term, Column 2 should give an example of its use, and column 3 should have an explanation.

Example:

Term	Quotation	Example
Assonance	"The molten golden rings..." (p. 422).	The "o" sound is repeated in the phrase "molten golden," drawing attention to that segment of the line.

3. Find at least 25 terms. This should be turned in as a written or typed document on or before the first day of class of the school year.

Assignment Two: Write and Read Some More

Find a book about non-fiction writing. If possible, I'd like you to purchase the book. Choose a book from the list below. I have created a comprehensive list that should appeal to multiple styles of reading and writing. I would like this to be YOUR book. I want you to write in it: underline, highlight, and take notes in the margin. This can be any book about non-fiction writing. Find something you want to read!

1. Read the book. Annotate as you read. This means that you read with "pen in hand." If you are not sure what to annotate go to the link below. The purpose of annotating is to have an interaction with the book. When we write, we think; when we think, we learn. This will help you become a more aware reader (and writer)!

How do I annotate? Go to this site:

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/197454.html.

When you start, we will practice annotating to decipher multiple choice passages—which counts for 45% of your AP Score!

2. Write an essay that explains what you learned about writing as a result of reading this book. Some questions you will want to answer:

- What did I know about writing before reading this book?
- What is my writing style?
- What do I now know about writing that I did not before?
- Choose one topic/concept from the book that made a real impact on you. What was it? Why did it affect you this way?
- What will you change about your writing as a result of reading this book?

I do not want to put too many parameters on this paper because I just want to see how well you write. I want to learn about your sense of style, as well as the level of your syntactical knowledge. The only requirements are:

- Answer all of the questions above
- Type the essay
- Write at least 2.5 pages, double-spaced, 12 font, and Times New Roman

BOOK LIST:

- *On Writing* by Stephen King;
 - *Ernest Hemingway on Writing* by Ernest Hemingway;
 - *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk (Should be available on-line for free);
 - *On Writing Well* by Ernest Zinsser;
 - *Sin and Syntax: How to Craft Wickedly Effective Prose* by Constance Hale;
 - *Stylized: A Slightly Obsessive History of Strunk and White's The Elements of Style* by Mark Garvey;
 - *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English* by Patricia O'Conner;
 - *The Little Red Writing Book* by Brandon Royal;
 - *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves* by Lynne Truss
-

Assignment Three: Letter of Introduction

At some point, **before August 1st**, please send me a letter of introduction (even though I probably already know you). Let me know:

- A. About yourself. What are you interested in? What do you do for fun?
- B. Your past in English/Language Arts. Who were your teachers? What did you like/not like? Why? What are you taking this class for? What do you hope to gain? What are you afraid of/concerned about?
- C. What are your goals? Personal and for AP Lang. What do you hope to gain from the course? This will become part of day one's lesson plan next year!

Please, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I will try to respond to you as efficiently as possible. No need to overwhelm yourself immediately as summer starts, but do not wait until the last minute to try and complete all of the assignments! Good luck!