

2024-25 Summer Reading
AP Language and Composition
Barden

Welcome to AP Lang! This course will focus on *nonfiction texts*, rhetorical analysis, and argumentation. Unlike your previous English classes, we will not be reading stories or poetry. This course will require you to integrate your previous knowledge in other subjects to answer unique, thought-provoking, and open-ended questions. Knowing a little something about a variety of topics can really help you succeed.

Therefore, this summer I am requiring you to read **5 articles** from **5 different subjects** and write a short (one paragraph) response to them. Below you will find a chart of suggested websites to find your articles. The subjects are purposely broad so that you can read articles that you find interesting. When you finish an article, you will write a paragraph response that includes:

1. Who is the author? What do you know about them? You might need to Google the author.
2. What do you think is the author's purpose in writing this article? To entertain, inform, persuade, or a mix?
3. Who do you think is the author's intended audience? Sure, anyone can find it on the Internet, but is the author trying to reach a particular type of person? How do you know?
4. Overall, what did you learn from the article? Did anything surprise you? Do you particularly agree/disagree with something they said? Explain.

Please clearly label each paragraph with the title of the article and where you found it. You may not use online encyclopedia articles for this assignment.

Subject/Topic	Suggested Websites
News/Current Events	NPR, Reuters, BBC, The New York Times, NBC News, The Washington Post, CNN, CBS News
Pop Culture/Entertainment/Art/Sports	The A.V. Club, Pitchfork, Rolling Stone, Variety, Vulture, ARTNews, ESPN
Science/Psychology	Nature, Scientific American, Science Daily, National Geographic, Psychology Today
History/Philosophy	Philosophy Now, Smithsonian
Human Interest/Anything That Doesn't Fit Neatly Into Another Category	Pricenomics, Upworthy

Your article responses should be typed and will be due the first week of school. This will count as a quiz grade. In addition, you may decide to get a head start on the year's outside reading books. This is not a requirement, but students who have prepared in advance have found it helpful.

During the school year, students will be required to read THREE non-fiction books OUTSIDE of class for this course, one for each of the first three quarters. **To get a head start** on this reading, I am providing the non-fiction reading list that students must use to select the books they will read. This list has been carefully curated to include books that support the level of rigor in style and content appropriate for AP Language and Composition. It is important that students choose from this list if they decide to work ahead. The list is [linked here](#). Many of the titles are available in local libraries. You may choose to purchase new or used copies if you prefer.

During the year, I will require students to use the following details from their reading for a follow-up assignment for their outside reading:

1. Title and Author
2. Author's Message/Thesis
3. Author's Purpose
4. Two key quotes/passages
5. One rhetorical device and its effect
6. Notes about relevant imagery

This reading is NOT REQUIRED SUMMER READING, but, rather, a chance to get outside reading completed before the school year begins. If students wish, they may read all three required books over the summer. **The related assignments will count as assessment grades.** This assignment is posted ONLINE on the NPHS website under "Academic/Course Information." Contact Mrs. Barden at kbarden@npusc.k12.in.us with any questions.