To: English 3 AP Students  
From: English 3 AP Instructors  
Subject: Summer Reading  

Summer Reading 2012  

Memorandum  

Language and Composition AP focuses on analyzing and interpreting samples of good writing, not exclusively American, and identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques. We will practice writing in response to all kinds of prose. Next fall you will take a course on composition and rhetorical skills.

The emphasis on composition and rhetorical strategies will prepare you for the Language and Composition AP exam in May 2012.

With that in mind, you are expected to read two non-fiction books over the summer. Select two of the following works of non-fiction: (Go online and find out about these books.

Blink by Malcolm Gladwell  
The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad by Fareed Zakaria  
The Know-It-All: One Man's Humble Quest to become The Smartest Person in the World by A.J. Jacobs  
Freakanomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven Levitt  
Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother: by Amy Chua

Prepare "Reading Notes" for your non-fiction selection and the novel, following the directions for each on the attached instruction sheet. Be prepared to turn in the notes for each on the first day of school. Also, keep an electronic copy of your notes. There will also be a test on the readings the second and third days of school. The scores you earn will become part of your first semester grade. Failure to read the selections, complete the reading notes, or pass the tests will not excuse you from your commitment to the class.

Have an enjoyable summer.

English 3 AP Instructors
For Your Non-Fiction Book

Create a set of notes for the non-fiction title you choose. Type these notes using each set of questions as a category. Be thoughtful and thorough.

Categories

About the Author: Who is the author? What does the preface or foreword tell you about the author's purpose, background, and credentials? What is the author's approach to the topic (Journalist, historian, researcher, etc)?

About the Topic: What is the main issue, topic, or problem identified by the book? How does the book relate to a discipline, to a profession, to a particular audience, or to other works on the topic?

About the Author's Premises: What are the author's basic premises? What issues are raised, or what themes emerge? What situation provides a basis for the author's claims?

About the Author's Arguments: What are the author's most important points? How do these relate to one another? What types of evidence or information does the author present to support his or her points? Is the evidence convincing, controversial, factual, one-sided? (Consider the author's use of evidence such as primary historical material, case studies, narratives, recent scientific findings, and statistics.)

Evaluation: Is the book appropriately subjective or objective according to the author’s purpose? How well does the book maintain its stated or implied focus? Does the author present extraneous material? Does the author exclude or include relevant information? How well has the author achieved the overall purpose of the book? What contribution does the book make to society?

Significant Quotes: Select six passages from the book that illustrate items above. Type them and employ parenthetical notation for each. Follow each with an explanation of context and your rationale for citing the passage.

Final Comment: What is the most important final comment you wish to make about the book? Do you have any suggestions for the direction for future research in the area? What has reading this book done for your or demonstrated to you?