

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading 2018

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The focus of AP English Language and Composition is twofold: understanding, analyzing, and writing nonfiction prose and engaging with ideas to develop and support our own arguments. In addition to the required reading assignments listed, I strongly encourage you to read independently over the summer, for pleasure and to expand your boundaries.

This year, students must read two books:

Everyone must choose and read one of the following books:

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century
by Steven Pinker

Everyone must choose and read one of the following books:

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David
Grann

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan

Students will be assessed on both books, so thorough and genuine post-it note annotating is required. The criteria for successful annotating include the following:

- Reflective, thoughtful, and insightful interaction with the text
- Annotations that address the following questions:
 - What is the author's argument about his or her content?
 - What evidence in support of that argument seems most important?
 - What connections between the content of the book and your own background knowledge can you make?
 - What questions emerge for you as a reader?