

AP Language & Composition Summer Assignment 2023-2024

Welcome to AP Lang & Comp! This course is an examination of how writers write & how writing contains intentional techniques which promote the writer's purpose. This course demands constant writing and skilled analytical reading to uncover what language is all about. The rigor and demands of this course serve to prepare you for the AP test in May, as well as engage you in a discovery of the various ways language can shape society.

In order to prepare for AP Language & Composition, you will need to continue practicing your critical reading and analysis skills over the summer. It is my hope that you will enjoy your journey into the workings and mysteries of the human brain. Please review this document thoroughly, paying close attention to due dates. Do not hesitate to email me (lmartin@pcsboe.us) with questions, or if you need assistance securing a copy of the novel choice. The book is available on Amazon. I look forward to meeting each of you in the fall!

-Mrs. Martin

Assignment 1: TEDx Talks

Prior to reading your novel, and in order to gain some intriguing context on how our brains function, watch each of the following Tedx Talks:

1. Dr. Daniel Amen's "The most important lesson from 83,000 brain scans"
[14:36]
2. Dr. Laura Boyd's "After watching this, your brain will not be the same"
[14:24]

As you listen, fill out the attached graphic organizers. You will need to fill out one for each presentation.

Tedx Graphic Organizers (2) are due the first week of class.

Assignment 2: Novel

You will need your own paper copy of the novel (see title and author below). Students who read actively by making notes about key events, connections to other texts or events, thoughts/questions as they arise, etc. will have something to which they can refer when school begins in the fall. In addition to annotations, please share with me a google document (**see examples below for format**), where you reflect on at least one powerful or poignant passage **per chapter**. The passage may be as short as a sentence or as long as a paragraph, but please be sure you include the passage (in quotation marks, cited in APA format) and then a brief response to the passage. These responses may include your personal musings, how you see the passage as important to the greater message of the book, or any other commentary you find pertinent. Personal responses should be in the ballpark of 2-3 sentences (no longer than 1 paragraph). Please share this document with me upon completion of the novel **NO LATER** than the first week of class. **Proof of your reading, reflections and annotations will be assessed in the first two weeks of class.**

The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music by Steve López

Your Name Here

Mrs. Martin

AP Lang and Comp Summer Reading

Quote	Response
<p>“...the lips and nose seemed nicely made, and she thought the eyes, with their moist, dreamy expression, rather pretty—rather, in an actorish way, sensitive. Sensitive, and something more: ‘mean.’ Thought not as mean as far bddingly ‘criminal,’ as the eyes of Hickock’s eyes, was reminded of a childhood incident—a bobcat she’d once seen caught up a trap, and of how, radiant with pain and hatred, had drained her of pity and filled her with terror” (Capote, 189).</p>	<p>In this quote, Capote expresses the emotions of Marie, an individual unaware of the pair's savage contribution to the Clutter's deaths. It's interesting to see how her reaction to first meeting Perry is different from her meeting Dick. It's almost as if she sympathizes with Perry (as others do too) because of his appearance and insecurities.</p>
<p>“Meanwhile, Dick and the condemned man were trading dirty jokes. Their laughter irritated Perry; he especially disliked Mr. Bell’s outbursts—heartly barks that sounded very much like the laughter of Tex John Smith, Perry’s father. The memory of his father’s laughter increased his tension; his head hurt, his knees ached. He chewed three aspirin and swelled them dry. Jesus! He thought he might vomit, or faint; he felt certain he would if Dick delayed ‘the party’ much longer” (Capote, 199).</p>	<p>It is interesting that through Capote’s descriptive language, he describes the anxious thoughts running through Perry’s mind while also signifying Perry’s childhood trauma when mentioning his father. The use of this (along with the anecdote earlier in the book) makes me wonder: why is it that in this excerpt, Dick is portrayed as more childlike persona - by cracking jokes - than Perry despite the original interpretation of the pair’s characteristics?</p>

