Students in AP English Language and Composition must complete three major reading and writing assignments during summer vacation. This work is particularly intense in order to ensure their commitment to the challenge and rigor of the course. It is also designed to demonstrate that they possess the prerequisite reading and writing skills for success in the course. Additionally, the summer reading allows students to experience a wider range of texts and genres than might otherwise be possible during the school year. The course opens with a follow-up on one of the summer assignments – the memoir. Specific assignments are outlined below:

**PART I: NONFICTION**

Read the following biography. Then complete the assignment described.

*The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* — Jon Meacham

Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the “better angels of our nature” have repeatedly won the day. Each of the dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, “The good news is that we have come through such darkness before”—as, time and again, Lincoln’s better angels have found a way to prevail. -- Barnes & Noble

**Assignment: Critical Analysis Paper**

As you read the text, take notes including page numbers of examples or quotes about important aspects of the historical figures Meacham discusses. Write a seven to ten page critical essay in which you analyze Meacham’s thesis and how he uses these historical figures to support his thesis. Use quotations from the text (taken from your notes) as evidence to support your ideas. Your essay should be typed using MLA format and include in-text citation and a works cited page.

This assignment must be submitted to Turnitin.com by 20 July 2018.

**PART II: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN MEMOIR**

Read the following memoir and complete the assignment described.

*Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez* — Richard Rodriguez

“*Hunger of Memory* is the story of Mexican-American Richard Rodriguez, who begins his schooling in Sacramento, California, knowing just 50 words of English, and concludes his university studies in the stately quiet of the reading room of the British Museum. *Hunger of Memory* is a powerful political statement, a profound study of the importance of language ... and the moving, intimate portrait of a boy struggling to become a man (www.amazon.com).
Assignment: Explanatory Essay

As you read the text, take notes including page numbers of examples or quotes about important aspects of Rodriguez’s life as an immigrant in America. Write a five to seven page essay in which you explain the important aspects of his life and how they affected him. Use quotations from the text (taken from your notes) as evidence to support your ideas. Your essay should be typed using MLA format and include in-text citation and a works cited page.

This assignment must be submitted to Turnitin.com by 10 August 2018.

PART III: AMERICAN NOVEL

Read the following novel and complete the assignment described.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain

Read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Takes notes as a summary for each chapter. Notes must be typed and must be submitted to turnitin.com so that they can be checked for plagiarism. You must be prepared to discuss the novel during the first week of classes. Also be able to look at the novel in regards to how the author separates the novel into parts and what he is doing in each part as a beginning step to analyzing the novel.

Assignment: Summary notes

Summary notes must be typed (Use MLA heading double spaced but type the rest of the paper single spaced). This assignment must be submitted to Turnitin.com by 31 August 2018.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

All students must type their papers using GoogleDocs. All work for these assignments must be original. You are not expected, nor are you encouraged, to consult reference materials. I am looking to evaluate your ability to read, interpret, analyze, and write about the texts. I do not wish to evaluate the work of a professional literary critic or study aids such as gradesaver.com or sparknotes.com.

Essays require students to be able to write more than a five paragraph essay! Essays should be typed using MLA format and include in-text citation and works cited page. (See below)

The entire summer reading project will constitute two test grades on the first quarter. Late assignments will not be accepted without contact to the instructor before the due date. Failure to hand in assignments on time will result in dismissal from the AP Language and Composition class. Assignments will be evaluated based on reading and writing skills displayed, quality of content, time and effort invested, and ability to follow directions.

Questions should be sent to goudreaur@bsd-ri.net.
In-Text Citations: Author-Page Style

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Both citations in the examples above, (263) and (Wordsworth 263), tell readers that the information in the sentence can be located on page 263 of a work by an author named Wordsworth. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the Works Cited page, where, under the name of Wordsworth, they would find the following information:

Use “Insert” then “Page Break” to make sure that your works cited page is a new page. Sample below.

Works Cited


Print.