

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to our AP English Language and Composition course at Skyview High School!

This assignment is not only designed to help you prepare for the upcoming school year, but for college and your eventual AP English Language and Composition exam, where skills developed through avid reading and careful writing are essential. Only the well-read student can respond knowledgeably and intelligently to the open essay questions on the AP exam, which is why summer reading is vital to your success, as is the need for continuous brain exercise during the summer months. Thoughtful, concise writing is also requisite for the AP test as well as college.

The summer assignment for AP English Language and Composition not only indicates your willingness to work hard, but it also measures your commitment to the course. ***AP English classes are for students who love to read, to write, and to explore literature.*** We will spend much of our coursework reading deeply and critically, as well as improving our writing. Both reading and writing will be part of your daily practice this coming school year, which should be exciting for you.

In this packet, you will find the instructional requirements and materials for your summer assignment. **These assignments are due on the first day of school.** Remember to pace yourself accordingly during the summer break; teachers will recognize last-minute work (or responses cribbed from SparkNotes and Shmoop) when they see it.

Ms. Annis and Mr. Wyley have spent time this spring crafting a summer reading assignment and a first semester that will be exciting, thought provoking, and rigorous. We look forward to meeting you on the first day of class, and joining with you in our work.

If you have any questions or concerns about this assignment, please see Ms. Annis or Mr. Wyley before the end of the school year.

Happy reading! See you Fall 2017!

Ms. Annis and Mr. Wyley

The Assignment:

1. **Reading:** This summer's reading assignment asks you to closely read two works (everyone will read *Huck Finn*, and then you will select one book from a list below). These books are closely related in both their subjects and their themes. Each of the works listed below uses the plot device of a journey to talk about the topics of American identity. We hope that you enjoy these books as you travel on your own this summer. Here are your instructions:
 - a. Obtain and closely read a copy of the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Twain's novel is about the adventures of the book's hero, and America's favorite delinquent: Huck Finn. After deciding to run away from home, Huck befriends and escaped slave named Jim. Together, they travel up the Mississippi river to the free North. Along the way, they encounter a wide variety of Americans trying to make the most of their situations.
 - b. Obtain and closely read a copy of ONE of the following books:
 - i. *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck – A non-fiction account of Steinbeck's road trip through the US with his dog, Charley. He describes the kinds of people he meets and the conditions in which they live in order to make a series of arguments about American life at the time.
 - ii. *Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger – This work of fiction has one of the most memorable narrators in American literature -second only to Huck Finn himself- Holden Caulfield. Holden runs away after being expelled from his private high school. He travels through New

York City in order to visit his sister, Phoebe, and deal with the problems that led to his expulsion.

- iii. *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston – This memoir delves into issues of identity and culture as the author weaves the stories of her family’s journey from China to America with her own coming of age tale. It incorporates elements of the truth and fantasy (there’s a pretty awesome darker version of Mulan in the first chapter).
- iv. *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E Butler – This science fiction novel is set in a near future America. It follows the story of Lauren Olamina as she leaves her neighborhood in southern California -destroyed by drug addicts and vandals- and journeys to Oregon. On her way, she meets up with other like-minded people who are trying to survive the degraded conditions.

2. **Writing:** You will complete writing assignments that will be due the first day of school. Your writing assignments will be graded using the rubrics below. Write as much as you think fulfills the requirements of each prompt.
 - a. Compare and contrast the character of Huck Finn and the main protagonist in your chosen book. Use evidence from both texts to support your analysis of their similarities and differences. Please use academic style (no first or second person pronouns, no contractions, and no slang). Please type your response in MLA format.
 - b. In each of these novels, the authors introduce readers to secondary characters who represent certain qualities of the American identity. Identify two secondary characters from each book and make an argument for the quality of American identity that he/she represents. Use evidence from the text your argument. Please use academic style. Please type your response in MLA format.
3. **Assessment:** You will take a test on the first week of school about the events, characters, and themes of both your books. The test will also assess your ability to determine an author’s main claim and writing style.

Summer Assignment: Writing Rubric

	Meets Standard	Developing	Does Not Meet Standard
Claim	-Introduces a precise, arguable claim.	-Introduces a claim that requires slightly more precision.	-Does not make a claim. -Introduces a “claim” that is too general or is a statement of fact.
Analysis/Reasoning	-Uses sufficient and relevant evidence to support the claim. -Analyzes or offers a reason for how the evidence supports the claim.	-Uses relevant and sufficient evidence to support the claim. -Analysis or reasoning needs more development.	-Does not offer either sufficient or relevant evidence. -Does not offer sufficient analysis and/or reasoning.
Organization	-Creates an organization that logically argues claim, evidence and analysis/reasoning. -Uses transition words to link claim(s) and reasoning when necessary.	-Has the elements of argumentation –claim, evidence, analysis - but they may be out of order.	-Organization of argument is confusing, or lacks a particular element.
Style	-Uses varied word choice that is appropriate to purpose and audience. -Demonstrates mastery of varied sentence styles. -Uses formal, academic style.	-Contains a couple of lapses in diction. -Contains more than minor grammar errors.	-Diction or style are inappropriate for audience and purpose. -There are many lapses in style. -There are many grammar errors.