



Northern Highlands Regional High School District
AP Language and Composition
Summer Assignment
2021-22

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! This course, unlike the English courses you have taken so far, does not focus on literature or fiction. We do not talk about character development or symbolism. Instead, we predominantly examine our world through nonfiction: books, articles, speeches, essays, and so forth. We also examine authors' use of rhetoric—the ways in which authors use language to influence their audiences and use that understanding to construct our own arguments. This summer assignment is designed to jump-start your understanding of argument and to provide a foundation for the theme of the course: Becoming a productive and informed citizen. The books will be referenced and used heavily in class during the first weeks of school, so careful and thorough readings are essential to your early success in the course.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS. For any text read, please make sure you have a hard-copy for use in class. **All readings are expected to be done by September 13th.**

Part 1: Whole-class text

You will read *and annotate* the first half (through page 226) of Jay Heinrichs' [*Thank You for Arguing, Third Edition: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion. 4th Edition.*](#) (Please make sure you get the 4th Edition.) We will be reading the rest of the text as part of the class. **Please have your own copy of the text and to bring it to class with you starting on September 13th.**

Make sure **to annotate** the text as you read, understanding that your goal for note-taking here **is to understand the key rhetorical concepts the author is highlighting.** **You will need this for a written assessment in September. (We will let you know the date.)**

Part 2: Choice text--Choose **ONE** of the books listed below.

Since this class is framed around the idea of being an informed citizen, each of these texts is an argument about an important current societal issue. When you come to school in September you'll be expected to discuss what you learned in terms of the content of the book and how it relates to your understanding of being a citizen in this country (you will not need to memorize facts or anything like that) **AND** how the author(s) constructed an argument (the overall thesis, the evidence used, etc.). **You can take notes for these purposes to the best of your ability.** The notes are for you and *will not* be collected. **However, you will use them for a major, in-class writing assignment in September.**

If you have any questions, please email either
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OR Mr. Intermaggio intermaggio@northernhighlands.org



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[How to Be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and re-energizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves. Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society. (www.bn.com)

[Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning](#) by Cathy Park Hong

Poet and essayist Cathy Park Hong fearlessly and provocatively blends memoir, cultural criticism, and history to expose fresh truths about racialized consciousness in America. Part memoir and part cultural criticism, this collection is vulnerable, humorous, and provocative—and its relentless and riveting pursuit of vital questions around family and friendship, art and politics, identity and individuality, will change the way you think about our world. (www.bn.com)

[Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality](#) by Sarah McBride

Before she became the first transgender person to speak at a national political convention in 2016 at the age of twenty-six, Sarah McBride struggled with the decision to come out—not just to her family but to the students of American University, where she was serving as student body president. She'd known she was a girl from her earliest memories, but it wasn't until the Facebook post announcing her truth went viral that she realized just how much impact her story could have on the country. Informative, heartbreaking, and profoundly empowering, *Tomorrow Will Be Different* is McBride's story of love and loss and a powerful entry point into the LGBTQ community's battle for equal rights and what it means to be openly transgender. From issues like bathroom access to health care to gender in America, McBride weaves the important political and cultural milestones into a personal journey that will open hearts and change minds. (www.bn.com)

[Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City](#) by Matthew Desmond

In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (The Nation), “vivid and unsettling” (New York Review of Books), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible. (www.bn.com)