Dear Student:

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. The following reading lists offer students high interest readings, contemporary texts, and non-fiction readings. Hopefully, you will find the summer readings enjoyable as well as thought provoking.

These novels may be obtained at a bookstore or a library. If you purchase your book from a bookstore or online, that gives you the opportunity to highlight and make notes within your pages to help you read more critically. Annotating is a useful tool in this class and will be of great benefit to you. If you have any questions, you can email Mrs. Hill at Ashley.hill@humbleisd.net or Mrs. Livingston at Crystal.livingston@humbleisd.net.

If you would like additional information on the Advanced Placement program, go to http://apstudent.collegeboard.org. For more specific information on the English Language & Composition test, go to https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-language-and-composition, on this page, you can connect with even more specifics about the class and the test.

**AP English Language & Composition**

**At a Glance**

- Focuses on nonfiction (personal essays, autobiographies/biographies, newspaper articles, etc)
- This means **not as much** work with novels, short stories, and poetry.
- You will write (and write and write and write).
- You will analyze other author's pieces, and be the author of your own.
- You will study grammar and vocabulary.
- This is considered a college-level course, therefore, students will be treated like the mature, honest, responsible, self-motivated people they are.
- You MUST be able to trust yourself to keep up with the workload.
- AP Exam prep is part of the course syllabus, and it is expected that you take the AP exam upon completion of the course.

**For the summer assignment, you will have to:**

- Read the required number of books (2).
- Complete your Dialectical Journals.
- Write the assigned short answer responses (journals and responses are due on the 24th of August)
  
  *The summer assignment will be the initial focus of the course. Failure to complete the Summer assignment will seriously threaten your grade.*

- The summer assignment work will be due Friday, August 24th.
If you transfer into the class during the summer (from another class or another school) you are still required to complete the summer work.

You will be tested on the summer material the 2nd week of school.

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**Book Lists:**

**REQUIRED SUMMER READING (Required book #1):**

1. Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won't Go Away
   By Rebecca Newberger Goldstein

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (Required book #2):**

2. The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down By Ann Fadiman
3. The Overachievers By Alexandra Robbins
4. Outliers By Malcolm Gladwell

**REQUIRED REFERENCE TEXTS:**

*(MUST HAVE THESE By Monday, August 27th and AVAILABLE AS REFERENCES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.)*

5. Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion By Jay Heinrichs
6. How to Read Literature Like a Professor By Thomas C. Foster
7. 5 Steps to a 5: AP English Language 2018

**Assignment # 1: Dialectical Journals**

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. Use your journal to incorporate your personal responses to the texts, your ideas about the themes we cover and our class discussions. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you’re reading, prepare yourself for group discussion, and gather textual evidence for your rhetorical analysis assignments.

**Procedure:**

1. As you read *Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won’t Go Away By Rebecca Newberger Goldstein*, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart (ALWAYS include page numbers).
2. In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)
3. If you choose, you can label your responses using the following codes:
   - ✓ *(Q)* Question – ask about something in the passage that is unclear (limit to only two) - be sure to respond to/reflect upon your question if/when you find an answer.
**Sample Dialectical Journal entry: The Things They Carried, by Tim O'Brien**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passages from the text (Direct Quotes)</th>
<th>Comments &amp; Questions (Write in complete and thoughtful sentences)</th>
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<td>&quot;...they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders— and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry&quot;. (Page 2)</td>
<td>(R) O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides excellent visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.</td>
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**Choosing Passages from the Text:**

Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, you might record:

- Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
- Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before
- Structural shifts or turns in the plot
- A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
- Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.
- Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Events you find surprising or confusing
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- Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting

Responding To the Text:

You can respond to the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is that your observations should be specific and detailed. You can write as much as you want for each entry. Use loose leaf paper for your journals.

Basic Responses

- Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text to the passage
- Give your personal reactions actions of the author or character(s)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or from your own experiences
- Tell what it reminds you of think or feel
- Write about what it makes you character or the author
- Agree or disagree with a

Higher Level Responses

- Analyze the text for use of literary/rhetorical devices (tone, structure, style,
- Make connections between different characters or events in the text
- Make connections to a different text (or film, song, etc…)
- Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)
- Identification of conflict, effects Interpretation of conflict, explanation of its
- Consider an event or description from the perspective of a different character
- Analyze a passage and its relationship to the story as a whole

Assignment #2: Free Response Questions

After finishing both of your summer reading texts, answer each question below in 1-2 paragraphs.

1. Choose a 3-5 sentence passage from Plato at the Googleplex, analyze the ways in which Rebecca Newberger Goldstein conveys her claim.

2. Develop a position on the value of an education. Use the comic strip below, along with your two summer reading texts to support your argument.

3. “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” – James Baldwin
Using evidence from your readings, observations, and experiences, argue the validity of this statement.
On August 24th, please bring your journals and copies of your annotated books to class.

The key to completing these assignments is **to start early and to do your best**. We look forward to seeing you in the fall! Have a great summer!

Your AP Lang Teachers,

Mrs. Hill & Mrs. Livingston