

**AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

Hello, my bright and eager students!

Welcome to APLAC. I'm excited to work with all of you on this journey in the fall!

In this course, we'll be looking to sharpen and strengthen your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills that you've built over the course of your academic career. This means that both reading and writing nonfiction will be done frequently and thoroughly throughout the year. As with all AP classes, this is meant to be a college level course; be ready to put in the work.

In order to prepare and practice for the school year to come, your summer assignment will focus on active readings of nonfiction works and reflecting on said works.

You will need **binder** for this class—yes, a physical one. It can be as decorative or as basic as you would like; the recommended size is 1.5-2 inches. You'll use this throughout the school year to organize your notes, your in-class essays, written reflections, and printed reading materials. If you already use a binder for all of your classes, you will still need to have specific dividers for the class (details to follow below).

This assignment can be fun if you let yourself enjoy it. Any student who signs up for any AP English class should already get some enjoyment out of reading and writing—so please, enjoy!

Warmly,

Ms. Hathaway (hathawayk@glenrocknj.org)

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A. Texts

Cohen Introduction

Before beginning your reading of either book or the essay you've selected, you must read Samuel Cohen's introduction to the collection titled *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology, Third Edition*. The text is linked [here](#) for you to access.

You must **print** this copy

Book Pairings

You must choose *any* one text from **Column A** and *any* one text from **Column B**. You can select any two, as long as you have one from each column!

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
<p><i>In Cold Blood</i> by Truman Capote <i>true crime; morality, humanity, psychology</i></p>	<p><i>On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction</i> by William Zinsser <i>reference work on the craft of nonfiction writing</i> <i>More approachable read - feels more like a conversation rather than an instructional book</i></p>
<p><i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot <i>biographical memoir; unveiling history, science, human consequences</i></p>	
<p><i>Educated</i> by Tara Westover <i>memoir; family, being sheltered, upbringing, disillusionment</i></p>	<p><i>On Writing Well</i> by Stephen King <i>combination of reference work on the craft of writing and memoir of the author's life</i> <i>Approachable; dry humor</i></p>
<p><i>The Last Lecture</i> by Randy Pausch <i>autobiography; the cards we're dealt, life lessons, sickness</i></p>	
<p><i>A Long Way Gone</i> by Ishmael Beah <i>memoir; war, child soldiers, survival</i></p>	<p><i>The Elements of Style: Fourth Edition</i> by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White <i>reference work on correctness, succinctness, and distinction in writing</i> <i>Direct and straightforward - a</i></p>
<p><i>Into Thin Air</i> by Jon Krakauer <i>survivalist nonfiction; the elements, individual vs. group, dangerous</i></p>	

<i>conditions</i>	<i>no-nonsense instructional piece with applicable advice</i>
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Important note: Please do your own research on these books before selecting your pairing. Some of these texts deal with serious, heavy topics, so you should be comfortable with and prepared for reading the texts. It is **heavily recommended** that you purchase the texts so you can mark them up as you read. It is not sacrilegious to write in a book, so long as it is with intent to attain and retain a deeper understanding of it!

While you will not be writing an essay over the summer, you will be writing one the first full week of class on your **Column A** text. For your **Column B** text, there will be an in-class discussion as a group where you will be asked to discuss the text, describe its usefulness, and share one of your takeaways (see section D for more details on the “takeaways”).

Gaiman Essay

No matter which pairing you chose from the above texts, you will be reading the essay “Where Do You Get Your Ideas?” by Neil Gaiman. I have included a PDF copy linked [here](#) for you to access.

You **must** print out and mark up this essay. You can use a highlighter, a pencil, a colored pen... whatever makes you happy. Follow the **checklist for annotating a reading** found on the sixth page of the Cohen Introduction.

You must bring this essay with you to class.

B. Vocabulary Building

As you read your choice text from COLUMN A, you will select **ten (10) words** that you are unfamiliar with or personally have not used before. This task is meant to expand your vocabulary and sharpen your skills in using context to determine the meaning of a word. For each word, you must do the following:

1. Write the word
2. Write down the sentence that the word appears in *with* the page number it appears on
3. Using context clues, create your own definition of what you believe the word means
4. After creating your own definition, copy down the dictionary definition beneath
5. Create a new, original sentence with the word in it

This assignment should be handwritten and in your notes section of your binder.

C. Binder Organization

Please come to the first day of class prepared with your binder and dividers for the following sections (in this order):

1. Notes
 - a. Please have loose leaf paper in your binder for your notes - we will be doing handwritten work frequently
2. Toolbox
3. Handouts
4. Essays
5. Reflections
6. Shared Inquiry Sources

You will be expected to bring this binder to class every day.

D. Column B Text: 3 Major Takeaways

As you read your text in Column B, use sticky notes/tabs to mark pages where the text made you think or had an impact on you in some way. Once you've finished, you will select and take note of the three (3) biggest moments in the text that gave you a significant "takeaway". Each entry should include the following:

1. A quote from the section of the text that had an impact on you *with* the page number(s) that the quote appears on
2. An explanation (3-4 sentences) on how this portion of the text impacted you and your perspective on writing

This assignment should be handwritten and in the notes section of your binder.

E. CHECKLIST

Use this checklist below to ensure that your work is completed.

- Read **Cohen Introduction (FIRST)**
- Read and annotate the **Neil Gaiman Essay**
- Read **Column A** book
- Make your **handwritten Vocabulary list**
- Read **Column B** book
- Make your **handwritten 5 Major Takeaways**
- Build your **binder**
- Place your vocabulary list in the binder
- Place your major takeaways in the binder