

Hello Scholars,

Welcome to 2022-2023 AP Language and Composition! This is an English class unlike any other---this year, you will be challenged to grow in reasoning, argument, and critical thinking skills while experiencing some great works of nonfiction and American fiction. We will focus on traditional texts, like full-length novels, but we will also look at a variety of other essays, Scripture, podcasts, documentaries, TED Talks, news articles, scientific journals, films, interviews, and speeches.

All of this to say: you will definitely be busy this year! However, “AP” does not necessarily equal more or unrealistic work...it is just a different type of work and thinking. This is considered a college level course, and you will be challenged with the maturity and thoughtful approach that a university class requires.

That said, our course will be a great time to build a little [community](#) inside of our larger school. I require your best each day, and you can expect the same from me. Hopefully by the end of the year, you will have had a great time while also reading and analyzing great literature, and you will feel prepared to slay the AP Lang. exam. More than that, I hope that you take the ideals and skills of our course and utilize them to serve the Lord in your chosen paths.

This document has the summer reading and assignments listed. All materials are due by the first day of class unless otherwise indicated, and please contact Mrs. Cooper if you have any questions in the meantime! Have a great summer and take some time to enjoy these works.

[Onward and Upward](#),

Mrs. Cooper

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Summer HW and Assignments list

1. [Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson](#) (**READING AND REFLECTION JOURNALS**)
 - a. Read, annotate as needed, and prepare for a test during the first week back of class.
 - i. Note---please use the regular (not YA/abridged version) of this book. It is also available as an ebook, an audio book, and free to borrow at the Library (note: the Libby app is a great, free option if you'd prefer the digital or audio).
 - b. Turn in notes/be ready for an annotation check the first day of class.
 - c. Prepare for an in-class essay on your assigned reading.

2. [To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by Harper Lee (**READ; JOURNALS; and MC TEST**)
 - a. Read, annotate as needed, and prepare for a test during the first week back of class.
 - i. [Free online PDF](#); available for free at High Point Library, and you can also use the audiobook or ebook.
 - b. Complete 15 entries in a [dialectical journal](#) (instructions on pages 4-5)
 - c. Avoid SparkNotes, Shmoop, etc. Remember---if you can find it on a study site...I can find it on a study site. You're in an AP class---do your own thinking :)
 - d. Prepare for a MC/essay test on the novel during the first few class periods.

Note: *Just Mercy* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* will have some important and common elements. Expect for this to be something we discuss in class during the first few weeks of school.

3. Film Recap: viewing and reflection questions (**JOURNAL ENTRIES**)
 - a. Review instructions on pg. 6
 - i. Due on first day of school (via Canvas Submission)

2022-2023 Summer Reading
Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

TURN IN: Your notes/annotation check on the first day of class.

- Your assignment for this summer reading nonfiction novel is to read, understand, and take great notes.
- You WILL answer the following question in an in-class essay.
 - Any notes that you take can be used for this question, but you cannot use outside resources beyond your notes and the book.

If you are unsure of how much to write, shoot for 5-10 things of note per chapter. You don't necessarily need to mark every single page, but each section should have multiple annotations.

Optional: Helpful resources about *Just Mercy* and Bryan Stevenson

- ❑ [Just Mercy summary and discussion guide](#)
 - ❑ From Stevenson's organization, [The Equal Justice Initiative](#)
 - ❑ Really helpful for chapter recaps---use alongside your reading, not instead of, of course :)
- ❑ Bryan Stevenson's TED Talk, "[We need to talk about an injustice](#)"
- ❑ Bryan Stevenson is also featured in the [documentary 13th](#), made by Netflix
 - ❑ Remember---all speakers come from different backgrounds and belief systems. It's important to consider the speakers' and director's perspectives when watching a documentary. This is something that we will discuss throughout the year.
- ❑ [Oxygen article](#) connecting *Just Mercy* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

2022-2023: Summer Reading
To Kill a Mockingbird---Dialectical Journal Assignment


A dialectical journal is just a fancy name for a reader's response journal. It shows your thinking as you read, and it helps you make stronger connections with the text.

This can be done in a digital Google Doc or you can handwrite on notebook/printer paper.

On the LEFT side, you type/write an important quote from the assigned chapter. On the right side, you include a detailed response of your reaction to what was happening in the book and why this quote is important. Your response can include things like memes, songs, movies, other books, etc. in addition to your written explanation (not in place of it :).

You should have 15 entries for your reading and reflection of your book. Please note that your teacher will NOT award full credit for analysis taken from study websites like SparkNotes, Shmoop, etc. Do your own thinking---you're an AP student, and I frankly don't have time to reread what SparkNotes already said! :)

[Rubric criteria \(thank you Bishop Walsh HS\)](#)

Quote (Page #)	Response
<p>Sample: "Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (1)</p> <p>Example from <i>The Great Gatsby</i></p>	 <p>Nick begins the book with advice from good old dad. Unlike poor internet Karen, who complains about everything and everyone, Nick's dad advised him to look for the good and not find fault in others. It makes me think that Nick might be an okay guy...or at least from an okay family. Though they are wealthy ("advantages that you've had"), the Carraways recognize that not everyone else has that same wealth. Basically, his dad is telling him to give other people a chance (unlike Karen)</p>

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Film Recap

Summer Homework 2022-2023

This summer, please watch these three works and complete the reflection questions as a short film recap. We will reference these works as we go throughout the school year.

Please note: I have not provided links to these. You can borrow from the library, rent or purchase for a small fee online, or use most of the streaming services (i.e. Prime, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube TV, etc.) to access these. Do so in a legal and responsible way (no pirated viewing here!). Additionally, if you or your parents have a concern about a particular film, then please don't hesitate to reach out.

- *The Great Debaters* ([Common Sense Media review](#) – PG-13)
- *In Search of Greatness* ([Common Sense Media review](#) – PG-13)
- *The Founder* ([Commons Sense Media review](#) – PG-13)

Reflection Questions for each film

- SAYS: After watching, what is this film/documentary about? What would you say is/are the main message(s) of this work?
- DOES: How does the director and editing crew craft this message?
- BECAUSE: Why do you think the “does” section is completed in this way? What impacts might this have on the specific viewing audience?
- YOUR THOUGHTS: Did you like this particular piece? Why or why not? Give a few specific examples to support your thinking.

Play by the rules

- Submit answers in ONE Google doc, due via Canvas submission by 11:59 p.m. on the first day of class
- MLA Format (TNR, size 12, double spaced)
- Reflection Questions may be bulleted into a SAYS/DOES/BECAUSE/YOUR THOUGHTS section for each film (it doesn't need to 'flow' like a normal 5 paragraph essay).

[Teacher sample](#)