

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING/WRITING ASSIGNMENT and other important information for SY 2012-13

We get off to a flying start with a great deal of work. These assignments are designed to help you ready yourself for a college-level course that requires intensive preparation and involvement. Being prepared from the start will help you achieve the designated goals more easily.

First Assignments:

1. Read Ernest Hemingway's *"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" and Other Stories*. A reading log is required with a *minimum* of five thoughtful entries (quotations) per story. In your log, you must include connections that you see between/among the stories (character, setting, theme, etc.). We will be looking closely for these when we read your logs. *The logs are due on the first day of class.* Students new to LHS will be given until the end of the first week of school to complete the assignment. They must be written in ink. In addition, there will be at least one test and two essays on the book.
2. Read and digest *The Elements of Style*. This is a course on language and writing. By signing up for this course, you indicate that you have achieved competency at or above grade level in GUMS (grammar, usage, mechanics, and sentence structure). This little book will help you review and improve any weaknesses that you may have. You will be tested on the material during the first week of school (and retested in May/June).

Other Information:

Course Content: For a complete description of course content, see the LHS publication on course offerings.

This is a college course. AP College Board has approved the syllabus. The books and other readings assigned are those you are expected to read.

Evaluation:

In addition to analyzing and writing essays, you will be expected to increase your vocabulary skills and exhibit a *mastery* of mechanics, grammar, usage, and sentence structure. The final draft of a paper is expected to be near perfect, not full of errors.

Vocabulary quizzes will be given on a regular basis, as will quizzes on all aspects of English (history, grammar, usage, sentence structure). You will also be graded on AP practice objective tests and essays.

All final drafts must be turned in with previous drafts attached to the back. Failure to do so will result in the loss of a full grade.

Behavioral Expectations:

This is, in essence, a college course. Work is due *on time*. You are expected to behave as an adult. Behavioral problems are inappropriate and unacceptable. Good attendance is extremely important. Plagiarism will be dealt with most severely (at the very *least*, a zero on the assignment).

Grading Policy for AP Language and Composition

I. Grades will be weighted in the following categories:

1. Summer Reading Assignments

Reading log	200 pts.
<i>The Elements of Style</i> objective test	200 pts.
Hemingway objective test	200 pts.
Essay test	200 pts.

2. **Outside Reading Essays** 300 pts.
(No revision)
3. **Other Tests (including Reading Counts)** 300 pts.
4. **Quizzes** 100 pts.

5. **Timed Writings**

Timed writings are a major preparation for the AP exam. You will be given a prompt to which you must write and allowed 40 minutes to do so. These will be considered as first drafts and critiqued by the instructor and/or your peers. Then you will revise and rewrite them.

The final drafts of these papers, worth 200 points, should demonstrate that you have given time and thought to improvement of your paper. Revising and rewriting does not mean that you just go through and correct spelling and punctuation errors. You are expected to rethink your approach, consider the examples you have given—in other words, rethink, reword, restructure, rewrite, **not recopy**. Papers that fall into this category will receive a 1 or a 2.

You will then do a second, and possibly a third, timed writing to a similar prompt. There will be no revising the final one. This counts as a test grade (300 pts).

5. **Other Essays**

You will also be doing other types of papers, such as summary, comparison, and analysis papers. These are usually worth 200 points.

6. **AP Practice Objective Tests**

It is critical that we spend time on practice tests for the objective part of the exam. You need to take these seriously as they make up a significant portion of the exam score. Each of these will be worth 50 points. We will do two for no credit so that you can get used to the format.

7. **Major paper worth 400 points in total (combined research and first and second drafts).**

II. Late Work and Absences

Most college professors do not accept late work. Any work turned in late but within a week of its due date will receive a 60. After that, no credit will be awarded for the assignment. **Do not come in with excuses such as your printer is broken, your parent will bring it later, you'll print it during lunch or seminar—the paper is due at the beginning of the designated period. You should have an account here at school to which you can send your work—and have it printed *before* class. Papers that are not ready to turn in at the beginning of the period (i.e., waiting to be printed) will lose a full letter grade.**

If a first draft of a paper is turned in late (except for an excused absence), then the final grade of the final draft will be dropped a full grade.

In reviewing AP Language and Composition exam scores each year, absences seem to play a role in low scores for a significant number of students. The importance of regular attendance cannot be stressed enough.

When you have missed a class during which peer assessment has taken place, it would be advisable to join other absentees and your teacher during the next seminar period.