

AP English Language and Composition (11th Grade) **Summer 2022 Reading Assignment**

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

En Conroe ISD, animamos a todos los estudiantes a leer durante el verano para enriquecer el aprendizaje y provocar el pensamiento. La lectura de verano fortalece las habilidades de lectura, aumenta el rendimiento académico, fomenta el amor por la lectura y permite a los estudiantes convertirse en aprendices de por vida.

Además, se espera que los estudiantes que se matriculen en un curso de Pre AP o AP de Inglés se involucren en la lectura de verano, ya que prepara a los estudiantes para el próximo año escolar y crea un marco inicial común para la discusión en el aula y la instrucción.

Hello! I'm Mr. Matthews, your teacher for AP English Language and Composition. I'm excited to begin our journey together. Read the following assignment carefully, beginning with some quotes:

"Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs." —Pearl Strachan Hurd

"Your words become your world." —Nadeem Kazi

"Rhetoric is the art or the discipline that deals with the use of discourse, either spoken or written, to inform or persuade or motivate an audience, whether that audience is made up of one person or a group of persons."
—Edward P.J. Corbett

In AP Language & Composition, we will study texts to find meaning and to analyze how the writer uses language to make meaning. We will also look at texts as models for improving our own writing, and as instruments to provoke thought about the world in which we live. The pace will be rigorous, but the rewards will be great (including possible college credit if you pass the AP exam).

This summer reading assignment is designed to encourage you to develop context regarding contemporary issues. Developing an awareness of how contemporary issues are being handled in credible discourse will give you a foundation which we will continue to develop throughout the school year. Before continuing to the assignment on the next page, I encourage you and your parents to review this official College Board disclaimer about this class:

Controversial Textual Content: Issues that might, from particular social, historical, or cultural viewpoints, be considered controversial, including references to ethnicities, nationalities, religions, races, dialects, gender, or class, may be addressed in texts that are appropriate for the AP English Language and Composition course. Fair representation of issues and peoples may occasionally include controversial material. Since AP students have chosen a program that directly involves them in college-level work, participation in this course depends on a level of maturity consistent with the age of high school students who have engaged in thoughtful analyses of a variety of texts. The best response to controversial language or ideas in a text might well be a question about the larger meaning, purpose, or overall effect of the language or idea in context. AP students should have the maturity, skill, and will to seek the larger meaning of a text or issue through thoughtful research.

ASSIGNMENT:

Instead of an assigned book, you will be required to **read five current-event articles** from any of the following professional news sources, or sources of comparable quality: *The Associated Press, Reuters News, TIME, The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor, The Atlantic, The Wall Street Journal, Forbes*. I encourage you to visit The Media Bias Chart®, found at the website <https://adfontesmedia.com>, to see how these and other news sources are independently rated for their conservative/liberal bias plus their factual vs. opinion-based reporting. I also encourage you to share your articles with your parents, and discuss your thoughts/feelings with them as well.

Use the chart below to track your reading, and turn it in when you return to class this fall. Be ready to share and discuss what you have learned and what you think about it. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me: jrmatthews@conroeisd.net. Have a great summer! -Mr. Matthews

Title of Article	News Source	Date Read	Issue Addressed	Your reaction/opinion