



AP SUMMER READING, 2016

AP English Language and Composition, Grade 11, Mrs. Brown

In order to prepare for AP Language and Composition, you will need to continue practicing your critical reading and writing skills throughout the summer. This assignment is not designed to torture you, but to help keep your brains working over the lazy, hazy days of summer. : You are required to read one book this summer and complete an analytical journal. Hopefully you will also do some reading and writing of choice as well since I'm sure you don't want your brain to atrophy over summer break. You are welcome and encouraged to purchase copies of the assigned readings; however, you may also check out copies from a public library and write your notes on separate pages. You will find used copies for sale at low prices. I would also check with local used bookstores because they are happy to find copies for you. Shop early in the summer, so that you will have enough time to read.

This summer, as preparation for our coursework, you will read *Outliers: The Story of Success - Malcolm Gladwell* and write a reflection journal of 10 entries. In essence, the reflection journal is a record of your thoughts and questions as you read, along with the section of the text that prompted your thinking.

Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different?

Your journal entries are due the first week of class in September. You will upload them to Schoology as soon as your class is made active. They will be the basis of class discussions and assignments for the first few days. The journal itself is 4 points x2 (the equivalent of 2 test scores).

Please create an online copy. Copy the selected text you are responding to at the top of the page, along with the page number. Do not hesitate to copy as much as a paragraph, if you like, or a sentence or phrase. Gladwell is an effective writer, your reflection may center on his ideas, tone, and use of details or evidence. Write your reflection below the text. Please number, separate, and save your entries as ONE document. You may use Microsoft word or Google docs.

Attached is a sample entry from another non-fiction book and guidelines for journal writing and annotating

In addition, many of you have already been required to create a professional gmail account. If you have not, please do so using the following formula: "lastname.firstname.graduationyear". Over the summer, please send me an email to wshs.mrsbrown@gmail.com with "PING" in the subject line. In the body of

the email, introduce yourself in 140 characters or less! Be creative! ☺ Those who do so will begin the year with a few extra credit points!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me: fobrown@seattleschools.org, or wshs.mrsbrown@gmail.com, Or tweet me: @mrsbrown206 (this is easiest way to get a quick reply)

A journal reflection should:

- Show the section of text you are responding to
- Make connections between the text and contemporary issues, other texts, or personal experience
- Ask questions and explore answers
- Make and defend predictions
- Discuss and interpret the meaning of description, imagery, or symbolism
- Consider the causes or effects of a decision or event
- Analyze the author's purpose or tone in a passage
- Identify and discuss social questions, political, or moral issues
- Respond thoroughly and clearly to chosen writing

Isaac's Storm by Erik Larson

“Three miles down the beach, the big St. Mary’s Orphanage with ninety-three children inside was under siege. It was a fortress of brick and stone that rose straight out of the grass just north of the tide line, a lonely Gibraltar shrouded most evenings in blue mist. Now waves crashed against its second story. Anyone watching from outside would have seen the lights of candles and lanterns move from room to room toward the back of the orphanage as the frontmost portions of the building collapsed into the sea like icebergs calved from a glacier.” (p.212)

Here the hurricane hits the city with full force. The huge waves and howling wind must have devastated the children. I have never seen Gibraltar, but I have read that it is a rock and fortress at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, so I understand this allusion. However, the simile- like icebergs calved from a glacier- seems like a misprint to me. Should it have been carved? If so, I can see the slices of the orphanage sliding into the sea.

There will be an in class assignment on the above book when you return school. You may use notes or annotations in the book to write your essay. Your notes and annotations are for you: I will not collect or evaluate them.

What is annotating?

Annotations are your notes, reactions, and reflections as you talk to the text. Mark your thinking in the margins (or on separate papers with page references): What do you find surprising? Confusing? Interesting? Is there a good description or quote? What new vocabulary are you learning? How has the author organized her material? What is her argument or claim? Do you agree? What is her evidence?