

AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2020-2021

Summer Reading Texts:

- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- *The Writing Life* by Annie Dillard
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

AND (Choose one):

- *102 Minutes: The Unforgettable Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers* by Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn
- *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcom Gladwell
- *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius: A Memoir Based on a True Story* by Dave Eggers

All of the books on your list are different in style and substance, but what I want you to do for the writing portion of your summer reading assignment is to find (and subsequently make) the connections among these works.

Assignment:

Write a 3ish page (please stick to this page length; this assignment need not be 5+ pages!), MLA-formatted essay in which you explore some common theme or thread that you find in your **four** works. Then, analyze how each author's **unique style or written expression** help to convey that purpose/theme/thread. Here are some questions to think about (but don't feel like you need to explicitly answer all of them):

- What do the authors do with language that is intriguing?
- What effect do the authors' choices make concerning their use of language?
- All of these authors fall under the category of non-fiction, but beyond that, their subcategories are very different. What are those categories, or genres? What effect does using those genres have on the ideas they are trying to convey?
- What trends do you notice across the author's work and across all four of the books?

This assignment should give evidence of your having read the material. You should include quoted text evidence following proper MLA citation and work cited rules (be sure to write in 3rd person, active voice). More importantly, you should show that you have synthesized the information and have begun to look at authors' choices more analytically. This assignment is, in a nutshell, what you will be doing all year in AP English Language & Composition: reading, analyzing, synthesizing, and producing. Good luck!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me via email over the summer with any questions you might have: coreilly@bishopoconnell.org. See you in August!

This assignment will be due shortly after returning to school in August/September and summer reading assessments will be held during the second week of school.

"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them."

—Joseph Brodsky

AP English Language & Composition: Required Texts 2020-2021

Please note that all students must have the same edition of each text, which is noted here by publisher and ISBN. These editions are also listed on the MBS website and will be available for purchase at the used book sale. All texts must be print editions. E-books or PDFs are not acceptable.

1. *Conversations in American Literature*, edited by Aufses, Shea, Scanlon, and Aufses
 - a. Bedford St. Martin's, ISBN: 978-1-4576-4676-8
2. *MLA Handbook, 8th Edition*
 - a. ISBN: 978-1-60329-262-7
3. *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - a. Dover Thrift Edition, ISBN: 978-0-486-28048-6
4. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Frederick Douglass
 - a. Dover Thrift Edition, ISBN: 978-0-486-28499-6
5. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
 - a. Norton Critical Edition, ISBN: 978-0-393-96640-4
6. *Ethan Frome*, Edith Wharton
 - a. Dover Thrift Edition, ISBN: 0-486-26690-7
7. *The Awakening*, Kate Chopin
 - a. Dover Thrift Edition, ISBN: 978-0-486-27786-8
8. *The Other Wes Moore*, Wes Moore
 - a. Spiegel & Grau, ISBN: 978-0-385-52820-7
9. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - a. Scribner, ISBN: 978-0-7432-7356-5
10. *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger
 - a. Little, Brown and Company, ISBN: 978-0-316-76948-8