

**AP English Language and Composition 2021/2022 Summer Reading Assignments & Rationale  
Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Farischon**

The following assignments are **required** for ALL Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (APELC) students.

**Assignment #1<sup>1</sup>: Close Reading and Annotation**

Students will carefully read and thoughtfully annotate *one of the following non-fiction texts of their choice*. We suggest using sticky notes to mark any quotes, ideas, diction, syntax, and tonal qualities you might use to help you prepare to write an in-class essay regarding this book. Before you decide which of the following books to read, look up their descriptions *so you have a better idea of what to expect from your reading experience and to ensure you/your guardians approve of the content*.

***Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science or other works***– Atul Gawande

***Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death, and Brain Surgery*** - Dr. Henry Marsh

***Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World... Things Are Better...***– Hans Rosling

***Freakonomics OR Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling...*** - Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

***Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need... OR Longitudes and Attitudes...***– Thomas Friedman

***In Cold Blood*** – Truman Capote

***Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*** - Susan Cain

***Silent Spring*** – Rachel Carson

***Slouching toward Bethlehem*** – Joan Didion

***Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers or other works*** – Mary Roach

***The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*** – David Callahan

***The Education of Henry Adams*** – Henry Adams

***The Fire Next Time*** – James Baldwin

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** – Rebecca Skloot

***The Other End of the Leash: Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs*** – Patricia McConnell

***The Professor and The Madman: A Tale of Murder... Dictionary*** – Simon Winchester

***The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House*** – Kate Anderson Brower

***The Tipping Point: How Little Things... Make...Difference or other works*** – Malcolm Gladwell

***This Boy's Life*** – Tobias Wolff

***unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation*** - Brooks Jackson & Kathleen Hall Jamieson

***Weaponized Lies: How to Think Critically in the Post-Truth Era*** – Daniel J. Levitin

***Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World*** – Steven Johnson

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<sup>1</sup> This assignment aligns with PA Core Standards 1.2.11. A, E, and G

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**Assignment #2 Text- A Documentary** (These abound on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, On Demand, etc.—even YouTube). Choose a topic or issue that interests you or this could be painful.

**Assignment #2<sup>2</sup>** View the documentary and “read” it as a text; then, *thoroughly* and *explicitly* answer the following questions in 1-2 typed, double-spaced pages (this is a SOAPStone):

1. *Who or what is the subject of the documentary?*
2. *What is the occasion?*
3. *Who do you believe is the intended, or target, audience?*
4. *What is the purpose for the documentary?*
5. *Who is the speaker, narrator or persona “talking to/informing” you?*
6. *What is the tone of the film?*

**Recommended Resources and Texts:**

1. We suggest you get a copy of *MLA Handbook for Writers*, 8th Edition, or a concise style guide of your choice.
2. Much of this course is designed to help you analyze and construct arguments, thus, you should engage in global dialogue. **We strongly encourage you to begin reading a weekly or daily news source on a regular basis.** A daily newspaper is sufficient, but we highly recommend that you begin reading one or more of the following:
  - *The Globe and Mail* (Canadian newspaper)
  - *Harper’s*
  - *The New York Times*\* (US newspaper)
  - *The Washington Post*\* (US newspaper)
  - *The Guardian*\* (UK newspaper)
  - *The Economist* (UK news magazine)
  - *Time* (US news magazine)
  - *The New Yorker* (US ideas magazine)
  - *Newsweek*
  - *The Atlantic* (US ideas magazine) or *Atlantic Online*
  - *Salon.com* (online ideas magazine)
  - *Reuters.com* (online news reporting service)
  - *APnews.com* (Associated Press online news reporting service)
  - *ALDaily.com* –online compilation of items from the English-speaking world

\*Pay close attention to “Op Ed” pieces in any of these publications
3. **Watch the news from all “sides”** – not just *CNN* or *Fox News*. Identify **bias** as you follow tweets and read all shared stories and links on social media this summer. Each one contains tone and bias: some subtle, others more blatant.

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<sup>2</sup> This assignment aligns with PA Core Standards 1.2.11. A, E, and G

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**Just to recap** –

You will work closely with one print text and one documentary (visual text) over the summer: one non-fiction selection of your choice (*from the provided list*), and your choice of any\* documentary available to you.

1. **Student Choice Non-Fiction Book** – Closely read and annotate in preparation for an in-class timed essay (*date to be announced during first week of school*)
2. **Documentary** – View, take notes, and respond to the six questions (SOAPStone) in a 1-2 page typed paper.

\*Current event, history, social issue, court case/legal issue, etc. If you question the integrity of your choice, then we likely will, too. A goal of the APELC course is for you to become a globally aware citizen. Choose a documentary to help you on your journey of becoming just that.

**All work is due on the first day of school. No exceptions.**

E-mail us with any questions at [rbarn@spring-ford.net](mailto:rbarn@spring-ford.net) or [jfari@spring-ford.net](mailto:jfari@spring-ford.net). Have a wonderful summer and be safe! We look forward to meeting and working with you in August!

Happy Reading and Writing,

Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Farischon

*N.B. You can find the aforementioned titles at most bookstores. Locally, [Reads and Company](#), Phoenixville and [Towne Book Center](#) may have the titles in stock for your perusal and subsequent purchase. Of course, you may buy new and used books online as well. Don't forget to check out the public library, too!*

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