

AP English Language and Composition

Summer Assignment 2018

DUE: Friday, September 7, 2018

AP English Language and Composition is a course that emphasizes, through a study of American writing, close reading and writing about primarily non-fiction works (although there is some fiction in the syllabus). Throughout the course we will be reading and analyzing the way a writer manipulates language in order to achieve a desired effect in his or her work which will require closer reading and awareness of rhetorical devices than you have used in previous courses.

In order to prepare for the course, you will have several tasks this summer. You may obtain the books you will need from Dr. Meyer in room 37. The books must be signed out and you will be responsible for returning them in the fall. Your tasks are:

1. Read *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. Published in 1966, this book broke new ground as what Capote called a “non-fiction novel.” It has become a classic American work. A review of the text from Amazon.com follows:

"Until one morning in mid-November of 1959, few Americans--in fact, few Kansans--had ever heard of Holcomb. Like the waters of the river, like the motorists on the highway, and like the yellow trains streaking down the Santa Fe tracks, drama, in the shape of exceptional happenings, had never stopped there." If all Truman Capote did was invent a new genre--journalism written with the language and structure of literature--this "nonfiction novel" about the brutal slaying of the Clutter family by two would-be robbers would be remembered as a trail-blazing experiment that has influenced countless writers. But Capote achieved more than that. He wrote a true masterpiece of creative nonfiction."

2. Keep a TYPED dialectical journal for *In Cold Blood*. A dialectical journal consists of two columns. On the left, you must list quotations from the text. Include the page number in parentheses. On the right, you must give your response to the quotations. The response should include an awareness of what is “remarkable” about the passage. In other words, why does this passage stand out? How does the writer use word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, tone, symbolism, characterization, or any other device you might observe in order to convey meaning and theme? You might also raise questions about the text or react to something the author suggests. DO NOT merely summarize the text.

In Cold Blood is divided into four sections: “The Last to See Them Alive,” “Persons Unknown,” “Answer,” and “The Corner.” You must have FIVE quotations from each section, for a total of 20; your responses should be substantial analyses of the quotations, approximately 50 words for each response. Label your dialectical journal so that it is clear which section each quote is taken from.

Please DO NOT consult any outside sources for analysis; I need to be able to determine what you are responding to and how you are able to analyze a text.

The dialectical journal will be worth 80 points, four points for each of the quotes/responses. To get full credit you must have the required number and your responses must be substantial and thoughtful.

3. Read Chapter One of *The Language of Composition*, "An Introduction to Rhetoric: Using the 'Available Means.'"
 - a. Prepare a typed outline of the chapter, making sure to have clear definitions of the rhetorical elements indicated (such as context, purpose, rhetorical triangle, etc.) as the terms in the chapter will be used throughout the year in our discussions and writing, and you will be tested on them within the first two weeks of school.
 - b. Complete the assignment on p. 28 of the text. Your response must be typed and be approximately one page in length.

Each part of the assignment will be worth 10 points for a total of 20 points.

4. Get a list of rhetorical terms from Dr. Meyer. Study those terms and be prepared for a test on them, and the material from Chapter One, within the first two weeks of school.

If you have any questions about the work throughout the summer, you may contact me at mmeyer@veronaschools.org. I look forward to working with you.

Pacing Guide for AP Language summer assignment

1. I recommend reading the chapter from the textbook, *The Language of Composition*, first. It might influence how you read *In Cold Blood*.

Reading/outlining (typed) of chapter: approximately 2 hours

Completing writing assignment on p.28: approximately 1 ½ hours

2. *In Cold Blood* is divided into four sections of different lengths. It is a relatively quick read, but remember that you are keeping notes in a typed dialectical journal, so you should be paying attention to striking language, motifs, narrative voice, structure, or anything you find remarkable in the text.

Part One: "The Last to See Them Alive" (3-74)--71 pages

Part Two: "Persons Unknown" (77-155)--78 pages

Part Three: "Answer" (159-248)--89 pages

Part Three: "The Corner" (251-343)--102 pages

Of course, everyone reads at his/her own pace, but if you read/make notes on approximately 30 pages per day, this will take you about 12 days (of about 1-2 hours each day).

3. Review the rhetorical terms. This should only take about ½ hour.