

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment, 2019

Introduction: There are three types of assignments, so please read this document carefully. In order to complete these assignments, you will need to pace them throughout the summer. Reading consistently this summer is the best thing you can do to prepare for this class and your education in general. Be sure that your assignments reflect your own thinking -- it is so easy to consult the internet, but we miss out on critical thinking and learning when we recycle other people's ideas. Next year, I will be using a plagiarism detector for all assignments, including this one. If you have any questions, email me at jcandlin@sof.edu. Please post these assignments on google classroom by **Thursday, September 5**. The class code to join is [t9u20o0](#).

Part I: Memoir as Protest

Memoirs are first-hand accounts of one individual's life. And yet, it is through these individual perspectives that our eyes are often opened to aspects of human nature and society that we didn't see before. Memoirs can also be a form of protest -- they call attention to the way that national issues impact individual experience. For this assignment, you will read a memoir in which the author is critical of some aspect of American society and write a 500 word essay on the ways in which the book works as a form of protest.

How will you do this?

1. Read one of the books listed below. As you read, annotate the text, using everything you have learned about reading closely from Kindergarten until 11th grade. As you read, consider how this memoir or novel can be read as a form of protest. What is the writer drawing our attention to? Does the story being told challenge authority or the status quo? How does this individual story highlight larger societal issues and problems? Ultimately, what does the writer help you understand about America at this time and place? Why is this writer trustworthy when telling this story?

2. Read through your annotations and write a 500 word essay explaining how this writer's memoir can be read as a form of protest. Aim to state a clear claim and back it up with persuasive evidence and analysis.

Memoirs*

Girl Interrupted by Susannah Keyson

(<https://www.amazon.com/GirlInterruptedSusannaKaysen/dp/0679746048>)

Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

(https://www.amazon.com/WomanWarriorMemoirsGirlhoodGhosts/dp/0780736842/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1466027166&sr=12&keywords=Woman+Warrior)

Between the World and Me by Ta nishi Coates

<https://www.amazon.com/Between-World-Me-Ta-Nehisi-Coates/dp/0451482212>

*If you have another memoir you would like to read, send me an email with the title and the reason you want to read it by July 1: jcandlin@sof.edu

Part II: **Read and Respond to Three Editorials**

1. Find at least three editorials (not news articles or informational features) from reputable newspapers or issues based magazines (you should mix and match, using at least two-three different sources). Choose articles about topics that you care about.
2. Write a response on each of the editorials. What aspects of the editorial were persuasive? What are your thoughts about the editorial or the issues presented? Your responses should be thoughtful, detailed and between 200-250 words in length (longer responses will not be read). See additional questions below the possible sources to guide you.

Sources for Editorials *The New York Times* (US newspaper), *The Washington Post* (US newspaper), *National Review* (US political magazine), *The New Yorker* (US ideas magazine), *Atlantic Monthly* (US ideas magazine), *Harper's* (US ideas magazine), *Mother Jones* (US ideas magazine), *The Walrus* (Canadian ideas magazine), *Macleans* (Canadian newsmagazine), *The Economist* (UK news magazine), *Time* (US news magazine), *Newsweek* (US news magazine), *The New Republic* (US political magazine), *Arts and Letters Daily* (an online compilation of items from around the English speaking world)

Some questions to guide you: (You don't have to answer them all).

- What are the author's main points?
- Do you agree or disagree or qualify (you agree with some but not all) with the writer's viewpoints? Why?
- Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
- Which parts of this article were particularly powerful?
- What techniques are used? What makes them good?
- Anything else this editorial makes you think about?
- How would you describe the author's tone? (the writer's attitude toward the subject)
- How would you describe the writer's style? (sentence constructions, word choice, rhetorical devices used, organization, etc.)