

## AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Dear Student,

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! I look forward to embarking on an interesting and challenging course of study during the next school year. This course focuses on rhetorical theory and examining how writers use rhetorical tools to craft their arguments. That process begins this summer. You must have the following assignments done and to me by *the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of school* regardless of which semester you have the AP class.

### Rhetorical Vocabulary

Define a list of vocabulary terms that will be published at <http://www.fifeschools.com/fhs/staff/agiddings/index.html>

### Reader's Journal

Over the summer, collect 3 columns each from 3 different columnists from major publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Seattle Times*, or the *Washington Post*. Keep a reader's journal noting your reflections on the various columnists' styles and approaches to their material, as well as their personal response to the content. Look for patterns and tendencies. Please include copies of the articles you choose to discuss. This journal should be maintained over the course of the summer.

### *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Also over the summer, read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, focusing your reading on the argument(s) of the book and its rhetorical approach. Pay special attention to the notice at the beginning of the book. Keep a reader's journal of your observations and reflections concerning Twain's argument(s) in the book.

In addition to this study is the examination of a couple of essays from the Norton Critical Edition, including David L. Smith's "Huck, Jim, and American Racial Discourse" and Toni Morrison's "This Amazing, Troubling Book." Write a response to each article focusing on the author's arguments and how they are supported by his/her style (tone, diction, sentence patterns, selection of detail in descriptions, and method of organization). Examples from each work are required to support your assertions. You can purchase the critical edition over the summer, or read any unabridged copy of the novel and pick up copies of the articles from Mr. Giddings Thursday, June 12 after school at 2:30.

### Other Reading

Though not required *this* summer, you may find it easier to write a strong paper in our Pop Culture unit if you have read *Amusing Ourselves to Death* by Neil Postman.

### Parting Thoughts

I look forward to working with you in the coming year. This class will not be easy. I will ask you to do a great deal of close reading and quite a bit of writing. It is in this detailed work that thinkers and writers are born. The benefit of such work to the individual and society goes beyond the possibility of earning a couple of college credits, though I hope you earn those as well. While taking the test in the spring is optional this year, I encourage you to take it. Aside

from the cost of taking the test, please be prepared to purchase a book from the bookkeeper. It is small, cheap, and something you'll refer to in college repeatedly.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Mr. Andrew Giddings*

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P.S. Don't forget to **enjoy** *Huckleberry Finn*. It's a wonderful read.