Archbishop O'Hara High School

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Grade 11

Advanced Placement United States History Grade 11

**Summer 2011 Reading and Writing**

Mrs. Schaffer/Ms. Wright

[jschaffer@oharahs.org awright@oharahs.org](mailto:jschaffer@oharahs.org%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20awright@oharahs.org)

* **We look forward to teaching you next school year and want to work with you during the summer. Email us, call us, or stop by school to see us and visit about the readings. Most of the time we can help you through a difficult-to-understand passage.**
* **The AP classes are fast paced and you must keep up with the intensive reading schedule. If you are unable to complete these summer assignments, we will move you out of AP English Language and Composition and AP US History and into regular American Literature and US History.**
* **Happy reading and have a great summer. We look forward to talking with you this summer.**

**[Important Note: The students for whom this course is recommended are those that have spent a good deal of time reading widely and deeply in both fiction and non-fiction genres. You should be reading books about history, music, math, science, art, philosophy, and so on. Without a strong background in reading significant books it is likely that when the time comes to write essays, especially persuasive ones, students will find that they have nothing to write about to support their ideas.**

**# 1**  **Assignment : Purchase the book un\*Spun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation (paperback) by Jackson Brooks and Kathleen Hall Jamieson. The book is available for about $10 on amazon.com.**

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The AP English Language and Composition and AP US History concern what author John McPhee calls “the literature of fact.” The course emphasizes close reading and rhetorical analysis of nonfiction, argument, synthesis, and composition. So, this summer, you will work with some quality nonfiction texts that will help you develop your appreciation of rhetoric and elements of argument.

**As you read un\*Spun, annotate the book – write in the margins and inside covers.**  Respond to the content of un•Spun. Identify and write specifically about particular passages that stand out for you. Make observations about how the authors achieve their aims. Make connections to other sources. Your annotations should provide ample evidence of work; show that you have read and thought about the book. Visit the Website associated with un•Spun: <http://www.factcheck.org/unspun/>. Bring your annotated book to class on August 17.

**# 2**  **Assignment : Nonfiction – Due August 17 –** The AP English Language and Composition and AP US History courses suggest a strong emphasis on **nonfiction**. Because most of the selections that you are required to read during the school year are fictional novels, we are asking you to read, review, and present a nonfiction work. Nonfiction includes the following genres: autobiography, biography, memoir, and all other accounts that are true.

**Assignment: Choose a full-length, nonfiction work. Read it, and then complete a book review and Photo Story presentation (instructions to follow). When you return from summer break, you will present your novel to the class in the form of a Photo Story.**

Although you may browse in a bookstore to choose a book, you may also conduct a Google search of the best-selling nonfiction novels to gain ideas and read reviews. Please remember, this is a college-level course. Therefore, your book selection should be appropriate for a college-level course (no *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen level books ). If you are unsure of the appropriateness of your book selection, please e-mail either Ms. Wright or Mrs. Schaffer to gain approval.

**Below is a list of suggested nonfiction books:**

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| *A Child Called “It” by Dave Pelzer*  *A Girl Named Zippy – Haven Kimmel*  *A Million Little Pieces by James Frey*  *A River Runs Through It – Norman MacLean*  *A Walker in the City - Alfred Kazin*  *An American Childhood – Annie Dillard*  *Beautiful Boy by David Sheff*  *Black Hawk Down by Mark Bowden*  *Brainiac – Ken Jennings*  *Catch Me If You Can by Frank Abagnale*  *Coming of Age in Mississippi—Anne Moody*  *Dead Man in Paradise by J.B. MacKinnon*  *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim by David Sedaris*  *Electroboy by Andy Behrman*  *Escape by Carolyn Jessup*  *Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser*  *Firebird: A Memoir - Mark Doty*  *Freakonomics by Malcolm Gladwell*  *Growing Up—Richard Baker*  *Home before Morning by Lynda Van Devanter with Christopher Morgan*  *How Starbucks Saved My Life by Michael Gates Gill*  *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents—Julia Alvarez*  *Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez - Richard Rodriguez*  *In Cold Blood by Truman Capote*  *It’s All Over But the Shoutin’—Rick Bragg*  *Kabul Beauty School by Deborah Rodriguez*  *Kaffir Boy - Mark Mathabane*  *Lost Boy by Dave Pelzer* |

*Lucky by Alice Sebold*

*Memoirs of a Catholic Girlhood - Mary McCarthy*

*Miss American Pie by Margaret Sartor*

*Moving Violations by John Hockenberry*

*On Writing by Stephen King*

*Prozac Nation by Elizabeth Wurtzel*

*Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi*

*Rocket Boys: A Memoir—Homer Hickam*

*Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand*

*She Said Yes by Misty Bernall*

*Teacher Man by Frank McCourt*

*The Girl in the Green Sweater by Krystyna Chiger*

*The Glass Castle: A Memoir—Jeannette Walls*

*The Innocent Man by John Grisham*

*The Overachievers by Alexandra Robbins*

*The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger*

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky*

*The Road from Coorain--Jill Ker Conway*

*The Year the Colored Sisters Came to Town by Jacqueline Guidry*

*The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman*

*Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson*

*Tweak by Nic Sheff*

*Wait Til Next Year—Doris Kearns Goodwin*

*Warriors Don’t Cry - Melba Pattillo Beals*

**Microsoft Photo Story Presentation**

**Featuring your selected nonfiction**

**Step 1.** Please visit the following website to download your free Photo Story 3 for Windows:

http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.mspx

Follow the online instructions for downloading the program.

**Step 2.** You may wish to familiarize yourself with the program prior to completing the project. A step-by-step tutorial has been included in this packet. **If you lose this packet, the tutorial can also be accessed online at:** http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/tips/firststory.mspx. Why not practice using the program to showcase your own pictures from a family vacation, prom, or other memorable event?

**Step 3.** To meet **minimum** requirements, 20 pictures must be used to feature your non-fiction novel. Create a folder and save various pictures from the Internet or digital camera. Follow the directions in the tutorial to create your presentation.

**Step 4.** Text and/ or voice must be added to narrate your presentation. Be sure the text you include is clearly visible. If you have the capabilities to add voice narration, you will eliminate the need to speak directly to the class as part of your presentation. If you do not include voice narration, prepare note cards so you may effectively speak to the class while your Photo Story is being presented. Also, add music to your presentation by either selecting a song that has relevance to the novel or by creating your own musical accompaniment (see tutorial).

**Step 5.** Save your presentation to a flash drive or CD for submission on the first day of class. You may e-mail the presentation to your instructor **if** you do not have access to either of these storage devices. If you choose to e-mail the presentation as an attachment, I will confirm receipt of your presentation. Print my response as verification that the file was successfully received.

**Requirements**

**Your Photo Story presentation must:**

* Identify title and author
* Establish setting
* Introduce people in the work
* Tell about the book’s subject
* Provide author’s bio-information
* Identify author’s purpose and tone
* Comment on author’s writing style

**This assignment is worth 100 points. You must complete all of the requirements in order to earn full credit. Additionally, the overall quality and organization of the presentation will be assessed*.* Remember to bring the presentation with you on the first day of school*.***

**# 3**  **Assignment : Newpaper/magazine editorial reading assignment - due August 17**

Choose a notebook (approx 5”x7” to 8”x11” in size) in which to keep this assignment. **You will submit this notebook on the first day of school and continue to work in it throughout the year.**

Over the summer, **read, clip and paste into your notebook at least four editorials or commentaries / essays** (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).

Examples of suggested newspapers/magazines:

*The New York Times* (US newspaper)

*The Washington Post* (US newspaper)

*Time* (US news magazine)

*Newsweek* (US news magazine)

*The New Republic* (US political magazine)

*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)

*Salon.com* (online ideas magazine)

*Slate.com* (online ideas magazine)

*Arts and Letters Daily* (an online compilation of items from around the English-speaking world)

Examples of newspapers/magazines that are ***not*** recommended:

*USA Today* (newspaper)

Fashion, lifestyle, or popular culture/entertainment magazines

Then, ***handwriting* your responses in your journal**, comment on the aspects of each of the editorials that made you think, and your thoughts about the editorial or the issues – one response per editorial. There is no guideline as to length, but your responses should be **thoughtful and detailed**. This assignment is worth 40 points.

Some questions you might want to think about/comment on:

* Do you agree or disagree with the editorial’s viewpoints? Why?
* Did the editorial make you want to know more about the issue?
* What are some of the author’s best arguments? What makes them good?
* Which arguments or points made by the author do not make sense to you and why?
* How does this editorial connect with other knowledge that you have from other sources?
* Anything else this editorial makes you think about…

**# 4**  **Assignment : Exposure to the AP Test Format and Expectations- due August 17**

**AP Multiple Choice Test**: Near the end of the 2011-2012 school year, you will be encouraged to take the national AP test in the hopes of earning 3 college credits. In order to prepare you for this exam, you will take an AP-style multiple-choice diagnostic test. I will use this as a diagnostic test to measure your prior knowledge and readiness for the advanced placement program. **Please do not collaborate on the exam. This is a measure of your academic integrity**. I will award you completion points for attempting the questions. Your actual score on the multiple choice test ***will not*** affect your grade in the class. Therefore, you should not feel the urge to collaborate with others. Please be aware that the types of questions you will encounter on the AP exam are much more difficult than what you have experienced in previous English classes. Do not be alarmed if you feel overwhelmed by the difficulty of the questions – this is a normal reaction. Simply try your best. Record your answers on the scantron sheet provided with the test in your summer reading folder.

**AP Synthesis Essay:** In addition to taking a diagnostic multiple choice test, you will also write a synthesis essay in response to an AP-released prompt from the 2007 AP exam**. A synthesis essay is similar to a research paper;** it demonstrates your ability to present a reasoned, well-supported, and engaging argument. You will be asked to read a variety of sources, both textual and graphic. You will then form an opinion after reading the sources, develop a thesis, and write an essay in which you support your thesis using and citing at least 3 of the sources you read. This essay should be at least five paragraphs in length with a clear introduction and conclusion. When you cite the sources, you may refer to them as “Source A, Source B,” etc., *or* you may use the author’s last name *or* article title. You must use direct quotes when supporting your thesis, and you must provide documentation. If you do not cite your sources, this is considered plagiarism and results in a 2 or below on the AP grading scale. Also, **avoid merely paraphrasing the sources**.

**\*Please read this section carefully:** This synthesis essay will be scored on an AP scale of 1-9 and then converted into a score out of 40. I will be assessing your writing style, organization, focus, content, and ability to synthesize and integrate sources into your writing to support your argument. You should converse with your sources, not merely quote a source and move on. Please be aware that this essay will be critically evaluated and that in order to earn a high score, you must not only meet the requirements, but also demonstrate your skill as a writer and critical thinker. On the national AP exam, most students score in the middle-range (5-6 on a 9 point scale). It is quite difficult to earn an 8 or 9. You must demonstrate a sophisticated writing style, provide insightful analysis, and convey a mature, academic tone.

**Review of Steps for Completing a Synthesis Essay**

1. 1. Read the 6 sources. Annotate the sources as you read.
2. 2. Analyze each source. Ask yourself the following questions: What **claim** is the source making about the issue? What **data** or **evidence** does the source offer in support of that claim? What are the **assumptions** or **beliefs** (explicit or unspoken) that **warrant** using this evidence or data to support the claim?
3. 3. Establish a position on the topic and formulate a thesis.
4. **4. ARGUE** your position. Present clear reasoning and support for your position on the topic. This includes the incorporation of direct quotes within the essay as support. You must use at least 3 of the sources and engage in a conversation with those sources.

**\*NOTE:** If you should lose your AP Synthesis Essay assignment or if you join the class during the summer months, you can access the essay prompt and sources at the following website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/ap/students/english/ap07_eng_lang_frq.pdf>.

**The multiple choice questions cannot be accessed online.** If you need an extra copy of the multiple choice questions from the AP Test Prep Booklet, you may pick up a booklet in the high school guidance office.

**Please type your essay, double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font, and carefully proofread it before submission on the first day of school.**

**AP English Language and Composition**

**Rubric-to-Gradebook Conversion Chart**

(40 point scale)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AP SCORE** | **LETTER GRADE** | **POINTS** | **PERCENTAGE** |
| 9 | A+ | 41 / 40 | 102.5 % |
| 8 (effective) | A | 38 / 40 | 95 % |
| 7 | B+ | 35 / 40 | 87.5 % |
| 6 (adequate) | B | 32 / 40 | 80 % |
| 5 | C | 29 / 40 | 72.5 % |
| 4 (inadequate) | D | 26 / 40 | 65 % |
| 3 | F | 23 / 40 | 57.5 % |
| 2 (little success) | F | 20 / 40 | 50 % |
| 1 | F | 17 / 40 | 42.5 % |
| 0 | F | 0 / 40 | 0 % |

**# 5 Assignment : Read The American Colonies: The Settling of North America by**

**Alan Taylor – available for purchase for about $11 at amazon.com**

AP US History is an in-depth study of the development of America. This summer assignment is designed to give you a jump start in the analysis of American History and give you the background into the developmental stage of Colonial America. It is imperative that you complete this project; it is designed to give us a head start to the school year and cover Colonial America prior to the start of the academic year. When we return to school in the fall, this summer assignment should be ready to turn in on the first day our class meets.

You will need to read *The American Colonies: The Settling of North America* by Alan Taylor.

*The American Colonies* is an analytical look at the social/economic/political/military development of our colonial period and the foundation that it laid for America. There will be a 50 point quiz over the book on the first or second day of class. The attached questions will help you prepare for the quiz.

The last study question asked you to prepare a one page single spaced typed assessment of the book. That assessment is separate from the quiz and is worth 25 points.