

## English Department Summer Reading Assignment: AP Language and Composition

The goal of this year's summer reading assignment is to help students learn more about their world and to read something that speaks to them. This year, students will have **two** components to their summer reading assignment:

### 1. New York Times Summer Reading Contest 2018

Students participate in the *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest. The contest runs from **June 15-August 24**. Each week, you will read or view an article, an editorial, a political cartoon, video, or picture of your choice from a 2018 curated list for high school students found on the competition website. After reading or viewing the news item, you will then go online to the competition website **and click on the link for that week and write up an answer to the weekly question: "What interested you most in The Times this week? Why?"** in the comment section through the competition website. *Your response needs to be between 250-300 words.* Try to read a variety of opinions and sides on these stories /pieces. AP Language requires knowledge of the world around you and of the way our "news" is reported.

A team of Times journalists will choose their favorite responses, and then publish them on the competition website. The competition also has samples from past winner as a models for you to check out.

In total, students to complete a total of 9 comments for the *New York Times* over the summer. Whenever you post a comment for the contest, you will need to **tag me online each time she submits a comment to the New York Times at avendittelli@rhssaddles.net**. In addition, you will also need to **print out your 9 articles and/or visual pieces and the accompanying comments that you wrote and bring them in a folder to the first day of school**. Students will have a culminating activity using these articles.

For further insight on the contest, reference the competition website. There is a very thorough Q&A section <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/02/learning/the-ninth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest.html>

### 2. Non-Fiction of Choice

Students will read one non-fiction of their choice. There are lists of non-fiction pieces on Google Classroom. **Students are required to join Google Classroom for their incoming grade level and post their non-fiction book selection under the assignment posted.** If you have not already signed up, please email your designated teacher above for the Google Classroom class code. You must **read** the selection by the beginning of the school year. You will be given a culminating assignment for your novel in the first week of class. I encourage you to have a discussion with your parents about which books you are considering reading. I highly recommend take notes/annotations as you read to help them complete the assignment at the beginning of the year.

#### **A note about non-fiction book selection:**

Modern education philosophy tells us that students who have the opportunity to select books to read become more invested in their learning and enjoy reading much more. As a result, we are asking that students select one book to read this summer. The lists we provide are vast. We are sure that you will find a book you truly enjoy. Here are a few guidelines for selecting a book:

- **Let your parents help you.** Because the list includes books for all age ranges, some titles may not be appropriate for a student just entering high school. In addition, some students the same age may be more or less able to handle the content of a book. Who knows you better than your own parents? They may have recommendations or may help you to select a great book that you will truly enjoy. Be sure to select a book that is appropriate for you.
- **Look at the description for the book.** Does the book handle topics you are not comfortable with? Choose a different title. Does that book seem too simple or too difficult? The lists we provided are selected for teens of various reading abilities. Be sure to choose a book you will enjoy but will also be appropriately challenging.
- **Consider your interests.** When you read the book description, does it appeal to you? Have you enjoyed books of similar style before? If you have already read the book, don't read it again but look for similar books perhaps by the same author.

**Dive in.** We hope you find many books that interest you, but you only need to read one for the assignment. If you find several books you think are interesting, create a list for yourself, but don't get so caught up trying to decide that you don't know where to start. Just dive in and get reading! Enjoy!