

AP English Language and Composition Summer Assignment 2019-2020

Please complete **BOTH** task #1 and task #2:

TASK #1: Due Monday, September 9, 2019

In AP English Language and Composition, we focus on nonfiction texts, various aspects of argumentation, and rhetorical analysis. This task is designed to gauge your understanding of delineating an argument. It will also give us a diagnostic regarding your ability to perform a basic rhetorical analysis. Lastly, it will give us a preliminary impression of your writing ability.

First, read **one** of the following nonfiction texts**:

Bossypants, Tina Fey

OR

Becoming, Michelle Obama

OR

Educated: A Memoir, Tara Westover

**Each book can be purchased on Amazon.com, at Barnes and Noble, or at any other number of booksellers. Additionally, these books are available at your local library. If you have any difficulty obtaining a copy of the book, please let us know as soon as possible.

1. After completing the book, write a one- to two-page double-spaced response (in MLA format—please refer to https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html for MLA guidelines). In your response, please respond to the following:
 - What is the author’s main argument in the book (main point)?
 - Describe four to five (4 to 5) examples that best support the author’s main point. Use textual evidence. Additionally, make sure to include an *analysis* of your evidence. In other words, do not simply list textual evidence. Make sure that you include a detailed examination of the textual evidence.
 - How have your views on the subject matter changed after reading the text, if at all? Explain.
2. Additionally, as a separate writing assignment, you will **write two paragraphs**—each also in MLA format. **For each paragraph**, you will choose **ONE** rhetorical device that you found in the novel. (For one paragraph, you will focus on one device and for the second paragraph, you will focus on a different device). Rhetorical devices include, but are not limited to *diction, tone, syntax, repetition, imagery, ethos, logos, pathos, etc.*
 - a. Each paragraph should address the following:
 - i. The rhetorical device you will discuss.
 - ii. An example of where the rhetorical device is used in the novel (textual evidence).
 - iii. A thorough explanation of how the use of the rhetorical device helps the author emphasize/develop/impact her main point (refer to the previous writing assignment).

- iv. A second example of where the same rhetorical device is used in the novel (textual evidence).
- v. Another thorough explanation of how the use of the rhetorical device helps the author emphasize/develop/impact her main point (refer to the previous writing assignment).

TASK #2: Due Monday, September 9, 2019

An important component of the AP English Language and Composition course is forming cogent arguments and having appropriate evidence to bolster your assertions. In the argument essays that you will write during this course, you will be expected to draw examples from your own knowledge. Therefore, it is imperative that you're always aware of important issues and occurrences on a local, a national, and even a global level.

Using reputable news publications such as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *CNN.com*, etc., **search for three (3) news articles** that address a current event or an enduring issue in today's society.

Read the articles. There is a sample article, demonstrating the length and complexity of the articles you should choose, found on the FLHS English Department website.

Then, write a journal response **for each** of the three articles.

For each article that you read, write a one- or two-paragraph journal entry, in MLA format, in which you reflect upon the contents of the article and answer two or more of the following focus questions:

1. What are my first thoughts about this topic in the reading? Do I think it is positive or negative? Why?
2. What are some of the most interesting or powerful points made in the reading? Explain why.
3. How does the topic or subject matter relate to my own experience? How does it relate to an experience from someone I know?
4. How does the topic or subject matter connect with what happened in the world in the past or connect with what is occurring today?
5. What is the most important thing I learned personally from the reading?
6. How can I apply the main points of what I've read to my current life and to my future?

There is also a sample journal response on the FLHS English Department website. Please use both the sample article and the sample journal response for guidance.

Finally, please provide a works cited page that lists the articles that you selected for this portion of the assignment. Follow the works cited format found here:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html