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Principal

MR. SEAN JOHNSON
Assistant Principal of Supervision, English

Dear Student,

We would like to congratulate you on your acceptance to the **AP English Language and Composition** program for the 2018-2019 school year!

Over the summer, you must:

1. Read **one** of the following texts from each group below:

Group 1: Noteworthy Speeches

Meghan Markle's UN Speech

OR

Stephen Colbert's Commencement Speech at Northwestern University

Group 2: Excerpts from Nonfiction Texts

The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boys' Club, Eileen Pollack

OR

Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates

Group 3: News Article Search

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 and annotate each article. Please supply hard copies (print out) of each article.

For this part of your assignment, there is a sample article on the Francis Lewis High School English Department website that demonstrates the length and complexity of the types of articles you should use.

All texts are found, in PDF format, on the Francis Lewis High School English Department website at <http://www.francislewisenglish.com/advanced-placement.html>.

2. For group 1, the noteworthy speeches, complete the following:

The ability to assess a rhetorical situation is a very important skill to be familiar with in this course.

First, define the following words on your own as they apply to the study of rhetoric:

Speaker

Occasion

Audience

Purpose

Subject

Tone

You should also notice that the first letter of each word above helps to spell out the acronym “SOAPSTone”.

You are now going to use each of the five elements from “SOAPSTone” to assess the rhetorical situation of one of the speeches, either Meghan Markle’s UN Speech OR Stephen Colbert’s Commencement Speech.

Fill out the SOAPS graphic organizer found on the Francis Lewis High School website for your chosen speech. Demonstrate your understanding of speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, subject, and tone by citing textual evidence from the selected speech.

3. For group 2, the nonfiction excerpts, complete the following:

After completion of the nonfiction text, you must write an expository essay that responds to the following prompt:

Write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the writer’s rhetorical choices that were used to convey his or her message to the audience.

In preparation for writing this essay, it is suggested that you attempt to explain what the purpose of the excerpt was, who the target audience was, and any rhetorical techniques that caught your attention.

**Rhetorical techniques include, but are not limited to, ethos, logos, pathos, diction, tone, imagery, sentence structure, repetition, and figurative language. Feel free to experiment with any other rhetorical techniques that you may be familiar with.

In your response, be sure to:

- State the writer’s purpose of the text
- Use rhetorical techniques to explain, and analyze, how the writer helps to achieve his or her purpose.
- Supply a thoughtful level of analysis.
- Use **AT LEAST three** (3) direct quotations from the text that you choose. The quotations should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of each text. This means that you cannot choose three quotations just from the first two pages of the texts nor can you choose three quotations from the end of the texts. Think: beginning, middle, and end. Thank you.

The paper must be typed in **standard MLA format**. It should be anywhere **from one to two pages**. Please retain an electronic copy of your paper as well as a hardcopy that **will be handed in no later than Wednesday, September 12, 2018**.

So, what is Modern Language Association (MLA) format? Please visit the Purdue University Online Writing Lab at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>. We will be visiting the website frequently throughout the school year.

4. For group 3, the news articles, complete the following:

Read and annotate the articles. Again, a sample article, demonstrating the length and complexity of the articles you should choose, is 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?

Do not forget that you are required to also turn in hard copies (printed copies) of each of the three articles that you choose.

All components of this assignment will be due in class on **Wednesday, September 12, 2018**. If, during the summer, you should have any questions about the requirements of the assignment, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Felder at jafeld@flhs.us. Please write your first and last name in the subject line as well as "AP English Language." You will receive assistance as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting you and working with you next school year! Good luck and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

The FLHS AP English Language and Composition Teachers