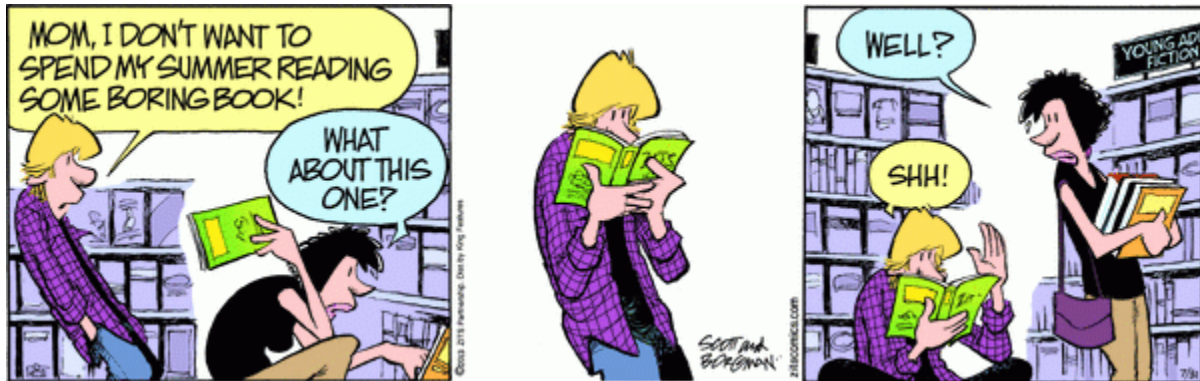


# AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING

2026-2027 School Year



AP Language and Composition is intended to prepare students with the skills earned in an introductory college composition course. The curriculum is intended to develop **evidence-based argumentation** and **critical reasoning** through careful analyses of **NON FICTION** texts. Over the school year, we will focus on understanding how writers form their arguments and what rhetorical situations inform their choices.

In order to best prepare you for the final AP Examination, you will need to cover some of the material on your own before we gather in the fall. Namely, **you will read THREE nonfiction works this summer:**

- one mandatory class reader on effectively arguing (*Thank You For Arguing*) (*Reading 1*)
- one research-based work (*Reading 2*)
- and one narrative nonfiction work (*Reading 3*)

**For each reading, you will be asked to complete an assignment** outlined below each selection list. These assignments are meant to aid you in (1) providing material you can reference when preparing for the AP Exam, (2) supplying you with references for in-class discussions, (3) giving you a head start on the first assignment of the fall semester which will be based off these readings.

**Students are asked to purchase a Composition Book to HANDWRITE THE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS in and to USE throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of AP Language and Composition**

***Please note:*** Since AP English Language is a college-level course, the books on these lists contain college-level reading material. Some of the books include graphic situations, violence, and language, which some may consider offensive. Please, look at a summary for the books (using the ISBN provided) to decide if the books are right for you. You are free to make selections that are appropriate for you and your comfort level.

## Reading 1: Required Reading

Heinricks, Jay. *Thank You For Arguing*. Crown Publishing. 2019.

- **IMPORTANT: Please read the ENTIRE book**
- **SEE THE STUDY GUIDE and QUESTIONS at the end of THIS document :)**
- **NOTE: some of the questions will require reference to multiple chapters.**

### Assignment 1:

Please see the attached document and answer FIFTY-FIVE questions in your COMPOSITION BOOK.

**\*\*\*Students must HANDWRITE their response questions.\*\*\***

## Reading 2: Choose **ONE** of the following Research-Based Books:

1	<u>Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America</u>	978-0525560210
.	By Connor Dougherty	
2	<u>Freakonomics</u>	978-0063032378
.	By Stephen J. Dubner	
3	<u>The Arm</u>	978-0062400376
.	By Jeff Passan	
4	<u>Why Nations Fail</u>	978-0307719225
.	By Daron Acemoglu	
5	<u>An Immense World</u>	978-0593133255
.	By Ed Yong	
6	<u>Fastpitch: The Untold History of Softball and the Women Who Made the Game</u>	978-1501118609
.	By Erica Westly	
7	<u>League of Denial</u>	978-0770437565
.	By Mark Fainaru-wada	
8	<u>Fast Food Nation</u>	978-0547750330
.	By Eric Schlosser	
9	<u>World Without Us</u>	978-1250834003
.	By Alan Weisman	

### Assignment 2:

(1) Explain central or main idea of the book. (This should be 1-2 hand written pages)

(2) Choose 10 PASSAGES that show HOW the author supports the author's argument.

*Example of passages to look for: quotes that demonstrate they are correct in their opinion with either facts, statistics, anecdotes, et cetera.*

- Write out the passages in your composition book
- Explain HOW the passage helps support the author's argument.

(3) Choose 5 PASSAGES where the author addresses people who DISAGREE with them:

*Consider – how does the author demonstrate why others disagree with them without making it seem like the other side is right?*

- Write out the passages in your composition book
- Explain HOW the author shows WHY others disagree with the author's argument.

(4) Outline any bias the writer might have in arguing his/her topic

- First, define "bias."
- Second, explain what type of bias the writer might have about his or her topic.

(5) Explain what events prompted the writer to write this when they did? Are the events that prompted the writer to research this topic explicitly stated or did you have to make inferences?

(6) Write out 10 QUESTIONS you had while reading (such as what stands out to you) and then EXPLAIN whether these questions were answered or not.

**Reading 3:** Choose **ONE** of the following Memoirs/Narrative Nonfiction works:

1	<u>A Long Way Gone</u> Ishmael Beah	978-0374531263
2	<u>Just Mercy</u> By Bryan Stevenson	978-0812984965
3	<u>I know Why the Caged Bird Sings</u> By Maya Angelou	978-0345514400
4	<u>A Walk in the Woods</u> By Bill Bryson	978-0767902526
4	<u>The Liar's Club</u> By Mary Karr	978-0143035749
5	<u>Educated: A Memoir</u> By Tara Westover	978-0399590504
6	<u>Naked</u> By David Sedaris	978-0316777735
7	<u>First They Killed my Father</u> By Loung Ung	978-0060856267
8	<u>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u> By Rebecca Skloot	978-1594134326

**Assignment 3:**

- (1) Take a page to write about the author's background and then write an overview of the plot of their memoir. (This should be 1—2 hand written pages)
- (2) Decide who the author is writing for (*who is their audience? It's probably more than one person/group.*)
  - Explain who the intended audience is for this book.
  - Write out **FIVE Quotes** that show you who the intended audience is for this book.
- (3) Splitting your book into FIVE (*approximately even by page count*) sections. Make a table of contents indicating the five sections by page number
  - Example: Section 1: Page 1—75, Section 2: Page 76—150, etc
- (4) For EACH of the FIVE sections, answer the following:**
  - What does the author want to make me feel?
    - Include **TWO** quotes/passages that make you think this
  - What is the setting and tone of this section?
    - Include **TWO** quotes/passages that make you think this
  - SIX Quotes the author makes with Ethos/Pathos/Logos.
    - **(2) Ethos** – author relies on credibility (states certifications, degrees, governmental bodies, etc.)
      - *The Director of the CDC states, .....*
      - *As a life-long lover of art, I know that....*
      - *I've lived in this place my whole life...*
    - **(2) Pathos** – author appeals to emotions (humor, anger, love, sadness, etc.)
      - the Sarah McLachlan ASPCA commercials
      - language that's very flowery or feel-good
      - aggressive punctuation
    - **(2) Logos** – author relies on logic (statistics, numbers, if/then statements, etc.)
- (5) After you finish the book, create a CHART of the most important characters/ people in the memoir:
  - For each person, include name, relationship to the author, and role in the work.
  - Provide ONE significant QUOTE by or about each person included in the chart.

All Summer Reading Assignments: Complete on paper in a composition book.  
*Thank You for Arguing* - Study Guide

Directions: As you read, answer the questions on the study guide below. You should read the introduction in addition to the main chapters of this work. This is a lengthy assignment and should NOT be done last minute.  
NOTE: *Doing it the week before school starts will not only be stressful for you, but it will also lower the quality of your work.*

Responses for the study guide must be HANDWRITTEN in your Composition Book!

1. What does the quote before the introduction mean?
2. Define rhetoric
3. Know the history of rhetorical study on pages 4-5, give a brief summary (4-5 sentences)
4. What is the difference between fighting and arguing?
5. What does persuasion try to do?
6. What is deliberative argument? (Hint: you'll have to use some context clues to build your definition)
7. Why should you only "concede a point that will not damage your case/argument irreparably"?
8. What are Cicero's 3 goals for persuading people?
9. How does "changing the mood" help your argument?
10. What are the three types of issues established by Aristotle? Why are knowing these important?
11. Why is it important to establish what core issue you are arguing about?
12. How can changing the test (past, present future) help you be more successful?
13. What is the purpose of forensic, demonstrative, and deliberative rhetoric?
14. What type of rhetoric is the "rhetoric of choice"? Why?
15. What is argument by logic (logos), character (ethos), and emotion (pathos)?
16. Why is concession the most powerful tool of logos?
17. How does "align[ing] yourself with your listener's pathos" help you in an argument?
18. What components make up your decorum?
19. Why must you change your decorum based on your audience's expectations?
20. Identify and define the "three essential qualities of persuasive ethos."
21. What is practical wisdom?
22. Why is practical wisdom important to building one's ethos?
23. Why is ethos more important than any other aspect of rhetoric?
24. How can *dubitatio* function in an argument?
25. According to Aristotle, where do emotions come from? Is this an accurate statement? Why?
26. Why is a "detailed narrative" the best way to change the mood of your audience?
27. Understand the statement: "When you argue emotionally, speak simply."
28. What is the problem with humor?
29. What is unannounced emotion?
30. Why is the passive voice so useful?
31. How might you use the backfire technique in an argument?
32. Why must you keep the motivation of your audience in mind when trying to persuade them?
33. What is "rhetorical commonplace?" Explain.
34. What is the difference between definition/redefinition.
35. Why must you as a "persuader" identify commonplace words?
36. What tense is best when addressing values? Why?
37. What is a syllogism?
38. What is an enthymeme?
39. Know the difference between inductive and deductive logic.
40. What key word easily identifies the proof in an argument?
41. What are four questions that can help you determine if there is a fallacy in an argument? How can you use these in everyday life?

42. What are the three identifiers associated with logical fallacies?
43. Understand: The False Comparison, The Bad Example, Ignorance of Proof, Tautology
44. Understand the following devices: Many questions, False dilemma, Complex cause, The red herring, Straw man, and Slippery slope.
45. What is the purpose of argument?
46. Explain the Fallacy of Power
47. Explain the Foul: Wrong Tense; Explain the Foul: “The Right Way”
48. When in an argument, and ethos is used, what is the first thing to look for to determine if ethos is accurate? How could this be applied to your life?
49. Explain, define, and give an example of “virtue” according to Aristotle.
50. Explain the quote from Aristotle: “There’s virtue in moderation.”
51. Explain “practical wisdom” or *phronesis*.
52. What is the most important trait of practical wisdom? Why?
53. What are the steps to evaluating ethos?
54. Define metonymy and synecdoche.
55. Why should one use the *simplest figures of thought* in a serious argument?

**All Summer Reading Assignments:**  
Complete ON PAPER in a composition book.  
MUST be HANDWRITTEN