

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading
Summer 2022

DISCLAIMER FROM THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:

Any student who initiates and confirms a schedule change between now and the first weeks of school is responsible for the completion of the subsequent summer assignment of their updated class choice.

AP English Language & Composition is a composition (writing) course and students are expected to read and comprehend college-level texts. You will primarily study *rhetoric* (the ways in which authors use language to influence their audiences) and *argument*. You will construct your own arguments, employing the tools of rhetoric in order to persuade your audiences. This summer assignment is designed to jump-start your understanding of argument and to provide a foundation for the beginning weeks of the course.

Summer Reading Text: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

Noah, Trevor. *Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood*. First edition. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2016. Print. (ISBN 978-0-399-58819-8)

Summer Reading Assignment: After reading the memoir, read the prompt below and type a short essay response. This will be a summative assessment due the first day of class (100 points).

Short Essay Requirements:

- Type essay in a Google Doc (because we use Google Classroom and it allows for easy submission, grading, and plagiarism detection)
- Name, date, and class set should be *single spaced* and typed in *top right corner* of document
- Typed short essay should be double-spaced and in Times New Roman (size 12) font only
- Paragraphs should be properly indented ½" using the TAB key
- Although there is no specific length requirement, a short essay response can be anywhere from 3-5 paragraphs depending on ideas and organization
- Read prompt *carefully* and review the College Board rubric for Q3 (argument) responses

Due Date: First day of class (100 points - Summative Grade)

Question 3 (Q3 Argument)

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts one-third of the total essay section score.)

****College Board essays are typically timed at 40 minutes. This is a suggestion but not mandatory. For your summer assignment, take as much time as needed to respond and answer the prompt appropriately.**

Speaking of his multilingualism growing up in apartheid South Africa, comedian and author Trevor Noah has said that speaking many languages “became a tool that served [him] his whole life.” Social worker and author Debra Burdick advocates that mindfulness, or the ability to be present in the moment, is an important tool for life. Steve Jobs famously said “the most important tool [he ever] encountered to help ...make the big choices in life” was knowledge of his own mortality.

These “tools for life” can be intangible, like the above examples. But, these skills for life can also be physical abilities—like swimming or public speaking. Select a skill, a tool, a piece of knowledge, or even a physical ability that you feel qualifies as a “tool for life.” ***Then, write a well-developed essay in which you explain why this skill, knowledge, or physical ability is the tool, above all else, that can best serve a person their whole life.***

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with **a thesis that presents a defensible position.**
- Provide evidence to support your **line of reasoning.**
- **Explain** how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

ARGUMENT (Q3) RUBRIC (See Below)

****Your goal is to score between a 4-6 on all essays**

****Each essay is broken into a total of 3 categories**

Thesis - worth 1 point

Evidence and commentary - worth up to 4 points (this is where you earn most of your points)

Sophistication - worth 1 point (this is the unicorn point that is VERY difficult to earn)

	0	1	2	3	4
Thesis		Responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt <u>and</u> the thesis clearly takes a position rather than just stating there are pros/cons.	NOTES: This means you MUST include a clear thesis that answers the prompt and CLEARLY shows your position on the issue (Without using "I think, I feel, I believe").		
Evidence and Commentary NOTES: All claims must be supported by evidence that is thoroughly explained (commentary) and connected to the thesis and prompt.	Any evidence / examples provided are generally irrelevant and/or incoherent .	Provide evidence of example(s) that is mostly general with little to no explanation .	Provide some specific evidence/example(s) relevant to subject of prompt.	Provides specific evidence relevant to the thesis that support a clear line of reasoning .	
			Commentary contains some explanation, but includes explanations that are oversimplified, repeats, or misinterprets evidence or cited information.	Commentary explains the relationship between evidence and thesis, done well in places, limited in others .	Well-developed commentary , engages specific details to support claims and draw conclusions throughout the entire essay response .
	Offers opinion with little or no evidence provided.	Tend to focus on summary of evidence rather than specific details .	No line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty. NOTES: This means there is a gap in the logical development of your essay; things simply don't make sense or aren't connecting for your reader.	Sometimes the link between evidence and thesis is unclear or strained. NOTES: All claims and evidence must clearly be linked/connected back to the thesis.	Consistently and explicitly explains the relationship between evidence and thesis.
Sophistication	Does not do any of the things listed	Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation .	NOTES: *You must demonstrate you have a complex understanding of the argument *Are you presenting something new and extraordinary, or are you presenting something that every other student across America is also presenting? *You craft an argument that identifies and explores complexities relating to the issue *Your own rhetorical choices create a style that strengthens your argument and is vivid and persuasive		

YOUR NOTES: