

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. Throughout this course, you will read and annotate texts from a critical perspective in order to craft well-reasoned essays and personal reflections. This summer assignment is designed to jump-start your understanding of argument and to provide a foundation for the beginning weeks of the course. Both required summer books will be referenced during the first weeks of school, so careful and thorough completion of the assignment is essential to your success in the course.

Summer Assignment #1: Read *Educated* by Tara Westover

Westover describes her experience trying to become educated after being raised by a family where education was mostly discouraged and in some cases, forbidden. This is a work of nonfiction, a memoir. (You may forget this at times because her narrative is often so shocking that it reads like fiction.)

As you read, be attentive to the fundamental aspects of the story and make meaningful notes along the way. Make sure to mark instances of:

- moments of her awakening/self realization
- thoughts on education (hers or her family's)
- self-reflection/universal lessons

After reading, reflect on the overall message Westover was trying to deliver about education. Write a two-page reflection that addressed the following questions:

1. According to Westover, what does it mean to be educated?
2. What is one of the great lessons described by Westover?
3. According to you, what does it mean to be educated?
4. What is one lesson you learned from reading *Educated*?

A successful response will include specific examples from the book. (Cite textual evidence with page numbers). Use MLA format and complete before the first day of class. Keep in mind that this will be my first impression of your writing. Give it your best effort.

(see page 2 for second assignment)

Summer Assignment #2: Start reading *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion* by Jay Heinrichs

This book will help you build a rhetorical toolbox of argumentative tips, tricks, terms and techniques. Read the first 13 chapters of this book. Annotate as you go. There is no one way to do this, but there are some general principles for good annotation that you should keep in mind. Here's what you should look for:

- Chapter 1:** Note what rhetoric is and the role it plays in the real world.
Chapters 2-4: Note the goals of rhetoric.
Chapters 5-8: Note the role of ethos and the strategies used to appeal to ethos.
Chapters 9-10: Note the role of pathos and the strategies used to appeal to pathos.
Chapters 11-13: Note the role of logos and the strategies used to appeal to logos.

Helpful Hints: Annotating a Text

Annotation helps you engage in, have a conversation with, and better understand what you read. The following articles discuss how to annotate and take notes effectively. YouTube also has a number of great videos on how to annotate. Find an annotation style that works for you and stick to it.

"How to Mark a Book," by Mortimer J. Adler, Ph.D. at <http://tnellen.com/cybereng/adler.html>

"How to Mark a Book" at SlowReads.com at <http://slowreads.com/ResourcesHowToMarkABook-Outline.htm>

Dustin Wax's "Advice for Students: Taking Notes that Work" at <https://www.lifehack.org/articles/featured/advice-for-students-taking-notes-that-work.html>