

Kim Gardner
AP English Language and Composition
2025-2026
Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition! One objective of this course is learning to rhetorically analyze nonfiction texts. As such, you should read one of the nonfiction books listed below.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot

Killers of the Flower Moon, David Grann

Educated, Tara Westover

Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson

Here's what you need to pay attention to when you read...

Elements of the **rhetorical situation**

1. Who is the **author** of this book? (Google the author and learn a little about him/her.)
2. What is the **purpose** of this book? (Why did the writer write it? Is there a particular message you can articulate?)
3. What is the historical **context** of this book? (Google this too and try to learn what was going on in the world at the time this book was written...events that relate to the subject of the book.)

In each of these books, the author is making an argument. Once you have identified what this is, start paying attention to how the author tries to persuade you to support this argument. Authors try to persuade you by making certain rhetorical **choices** (comparisons, repetition, allusions, etc.), by presenting evidence that **appeals** to logic or emotion, and through the tone that is created with their choice of **diction**.

Make note of all of this as you read with clear annotations. Please bring your book to class the first day of school and be prepared to complete an assignment related to your reading.