

Rising 11th Grade
AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading and Tasks

Dear Student of the English Language,

Welcome to Advanced Placement Language and Composition. I look forward to beginning this journey with you. Please read the information contained in this letter as it explains the reading and assignments for the summer.

AP Language and Composition is different from any English course you've experienced thus far. As such, each of the summer works explore our language's practical and stylistic use.

Below are listed the titles of the TWO works to be read over the summer:

- Stanley Fish's *How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One*
- Jay Heinrich's *Thank You for Arguing*

These works are available in paperback and may be available online or on Kindle. You may prefer hard copies since, with those, you will be able to highlight and annotate. In addition to reading these three works, you will complete a separate task for each. These completed tasks are due the first day of the new school year and will not be accepted late. Hard copies only will be accepted. These tasks will be assessed for a grade.

Task 1: *How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One*

This text explores how writers use language and to what effect. You've learned how to write a sentence, sure, but perhaps you've never considered the effect each type of sentence has on your reader. For this task, you will provide at least 10 sentence constructions Fish examines and explain what effect these constructions have on readers. For each numbered item, you should include a page number and an example from the text. Please see my example below from Virginia Tuft's *Syntax as Style* as a guide. In addition to your 10 examples, you must provide a complete MLA citation of the text at the end of your Task 2 document.

- 1) **The Short Sentence.** In the first chapter of her book, Tuft explains that short sentences "serve as nucleus inside long sentences." They break up long sentences and provide a point of emphasis, an intended moment of pause for the reader. (e.g., *This is a novel. He feels empty. The story creeps to an end. I made my bed*) (9-10)

Task 2: *Thank You for Arguing*

For this task, you will keep a dialectical journal. Your journal should contain at least 20 short passages from the text. You will provide an excerpt from the text, indicate the page number and write a response. These responses should be thoughtful. Think about how you will implement what you're reading into your own writing. Think about how your reading of rhetorical pieces will change based on the knowledge gleaned from the text. Please type your work. Make sure that these passages are scattered throughout the piece and not taken from the only the beginning of the work. In addition to your journal, you must provide a complete MLA citation of the text at the end of your Task 2 document.

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You should format your journal as follows:

Passage	Pg. #	Response
“The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a predilection unforgivable in Maycomb...”	9	It seems that the town is closed-minded in viewing the Radley’s since they don’t go to church or do other things common in Maycomb. This attitude seems to be a prejudice against their lifestyle since it seems that the town might not really know them and has become superstitious about them. People often get suspicious about what they don’t understand or what seems strange to them.

Please remember that this is a college-level course. You must budget your time accordingly for each task. Procrastination is your greatest enemy.

If you have any questions about these tasks, you may email me at any time during the summer break.

All the best,

Mrs. Kirkland

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