



**AP
LANGUAGE
2017 - 2018
SUMMER
READING**

Dear A.P. English Language and Composition Student,

You have elected to take a most exciting class this year, which requires a great deal of dedication and effort. Please scroll down for the summer reading assignments for this course. Read the material carefully before beginning the assignments. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to e-mail me. Be sure to complete all the assignments by the end of the first week of school. Assignments in this class are only accepted on or before the due date and all work must be submitted in hard copy and through turnitin.com.

By preparing in advance, you will enhance the possibility of achieving a score of 4 or 5 on the A.P exam, as well as easing the burden of the heavy reading necessary for this college-level class. Don't forget that you will have other responsibilities during the coming year, but not to the exclusion of your obligations for this class. The more you read, the better reader you will become. Have a well-deserved rest and a great vacation!

Sincerely,

Mica Bloom
English Department Chair
mbloom_te@flatbush.org

“

Rhetoric is the art of **ruling the minds** of men.

(Plato)

”

Yes, assignments plural! Please note that it does not say “Summer Reading Assignments,” as there

is a lot of writing involved. First words of AP Lang wisdom do not, do not, DO NOT wait until the weekend before school begins to start your work! You have numerous assignments to complete and hand in by the end of the first week of school.

All writing assignments must be MLA format and stapled. Do not forget to clearly label your work. If you finish your work early over the summer, you are encouraged to e-mail your completed assignments to me.

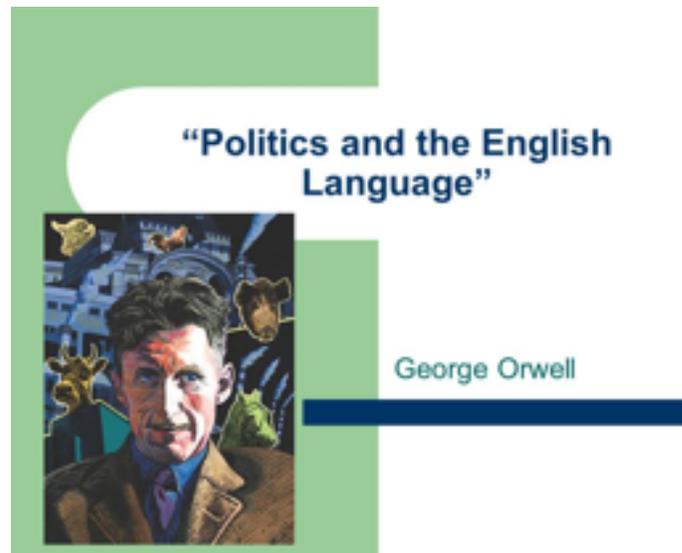
ON YOUR FIRST DAY BACK ALL ESSAYS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN.COM



ASSIGNMENT 1:

READ: "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell

<http://www.resort.com/~prime8/Orwell/patee.html>



Stacy Tartar Esch summarizes Orwell's text by writing: "In 'Politics and the English Language' we are asked to consider the connection between corrupted (and corruptive) language and political manipulation....Specifically, we are asked to consider whether 'ugly' language (defined as staleness of imagery and lack of precision) contributes to muddy or 'foolish' thinking. Orwell believes it does, although the process is anything but simple. Political and economic pressures produce ugly language, which then produces foolish thinking; but then, foolish thinking produces even uglier language, and the cycle continues. For Orwell, this was not a purely philosophical or academic problem; the essay moves towards a position which links the degeneration of language with the rise of totalitarianism and focuses on "his conviction that danger resides where people turn from clear thinking and blindly follow orthodoxies."

Orwell creates this purpose by focusing in on the types of language manipulation which he views as problematic. He even goes so far as to quote examples of the types of language he is explaining.

Character Analysis of a Politician Based on George Orwell's "Politics and the English Language"

Your assignment is to explore the validity of Orwell's claims about language in regard to political language. Choose 3 of the issues from Orwell's piece. You want to be certain that you have a full understanding of each one that you choose. Locate and analyze 1 famous political speech or written statement of at least 350 words for each of the language crimes you have chosen.

- **1 piece per language crime (3 in total)**

OF THE THREE:

- 1 piece must be from a U.S. politician who has been in the limelight from 1970-2000.
- 1 piece must be from a U.S. politician who was in the limelight from 1950-1970.
- 1 piece must be from a politician who is not from the United States ,from any time period.

For each piece you will:

- Annotate the speech for the language crime which has been most frequently committed.
- Then, write a brief explanation (minimum of 150 words) of how these offenses weaken the effectiveness of the piece.

Here are Orwell's rules...just in case:

- Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
- Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
- Never use the passive where you can use the active.
- Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

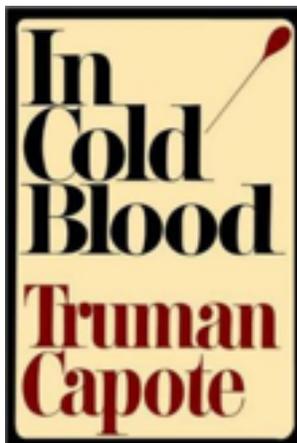
THIS ASSIGNMENT IS ABOUT LANGUAGE CRIMES, NOT YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS!

ASSIGNMENT 2:



Choose **one** book from *The New York Times* Best Sellers Hardcover Non-fiction or Paperback Non-fiction lists (Amazon has these lists on their website...you can also “google” *New York Times* Best Seller List). The book must be at an appropriate level for your abilities as an AP student and it must be SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. You may choose a non-fiction book from the list within the last year. Upon your return to school you will be writing a timed in-class essay on your book – so read carefully and be prepared!

ASSIGNMENT 3: ANCHOR TEXT



Our anchor text for the first semester will be Truman Capote’s classic *In Cold Blood*. The book is divided into four sections, you are only to read section one (entitled “The Last to See Them Alive”) and complete the worksheet on the next page. We will continue the reading of the book upon our return to school in September so it is best you must have a copy of the text.

In Cold Blood

Name: _____

Part I: The Last to See Them Alive
pg. 3 – 74

The excerpt in French... what does it mean? Where does it come from?

Setting:

Characters: (Recurring)

Vocabulary: (Any five new words and their definitions)

Quotes (Two direct quotes & page numbers and a short rationale for why you picked those quotes)

Questions for discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.