

AP Language and Composition
2025 Summer Reading
Lawton Chiles High School

Course Description:

Welcome to AP Language and Composition, a course designed to be the equivalent in rigor to a college course in rhetoric, literature studies, and composition. Special attention will be devoted to preparing students for the AP Language and Composition examination. We will be working with this assignment from the first day of class, so have the novel read and annotated by the *first day of class*.

Your summer assignment:

(1) Select and read ***a memoir of your choice***. You may read any selection, but you should read a work of **at least 175 pages** to guarantee enough content for analysis. Look for memoirs by figures associated with subjects which interest you. You can find these selections at Books A Million, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and your local library. You will be required to annotate your selection, so if you use a library book, be sure that it is accessible on the first day of class.

(2) You need to show an active reading strategy throughout the entire book and should have **no fewer than 40 annotations** (on post-its, margin notes, etc.). Your annotations should focus on:

- **word choice (diction)**
- **tone (What is the author's tone towards the subject? How do you know? Does the tone shift?)**
- **sentence structure (syntax)**
- **audience**
- **context**
- **purpose**
- **appeals (Does the writer appeal to a reader's sense of emotion? Which emotions? Is it effective? Does the writer appeal to a reader's sense of logic? How does a writer use their credibility to appeal to the reader?)**
- **anything else that interests you as you read (Is there a particularly effective description? A beautiful or powerful image? A particularly impactful or meaningful quote?)**

Bring your copy of the novel WITH ANNOTATIONS on the first day of class.

(3) During the first week of school, be prepared to complete a close reading assessment and rhetorical analysis assignment that shows your understanding of your selected text.

During the school year, all AP Lang and Comp classes will be reading the following novels. It is suggested that you be on the lookout now for inexpensive or used (but not previously annotated) copies of these works: *The Scarlet Letter* by Hawthorne and *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald. Please note: We will be using hard copies (not electronic copies) of the summer reading novel and the two novels we read throughout the 25-26 school year.

AP Language and Composition is considered a college-level course; consequently, the language and plot of the readings (and our expectations) reflect this level of maturity. Per School Board Policy 2240, Leon County Schools recognizes that certain instructional materials may conflict with a student's or parent's value system. In such cases, a parent may request in writing an alternative summer reading assignment. Please direct inquiries to Mr. Shoenberger at shoenbergera@leonschools.net.