AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment
Summer 2026

To prepare for AP Language and Composition, you will have two assignments: read a book of your choice from the reading list, and view and write about documentaries that deal with current events. You will have a test on the book you read on the 2nd day of school. The documentary assignment is also due on the 2nd day of school.

Reading Assignment: Choose one of the following to read.

Book choices:

1. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel J. Brown
2. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand
3. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
4. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown
5. *Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah
6. *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
7. *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
8. *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

Google these titles to see which book you are interested in studying. You may come by my room and see if I have any copies available to check out, but if not, you are responsible for purchasing the text or checking it out from the library.

Take good notes while you read, and review your notes before the test.

Documentary Assignment - In AP Language, you must be well-read and knowledgeable about the following subjects:

Current events
History
Education
Literature
Pop culture
Science

To help increase your knowledge in these areas, you will choose two documentaries from two different subjects and write a response paper for each. There are many documentaries available, with many good ones found on *Frontline*, by PBS, at https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentaries/

Paper Requirements

MLA format

Title your paper.

Summary paragraph - The first line should identify the documentary and the subject matter. For example: "The documentary, *Why Flamingos Fly South,* produced by Iluv Birds, discusses the current migration patterns of the pink flamingo." The next sentences should discuss highlights from the documentary. You do not need to go into a plethora of details, just the main points. This paragraph should be about five to seven sentences. This is an objective summary, to be written in the 3rd person (no "I" or "you" pronouns). Use powerful vocabulary, especially verbs.

Opinion paragraph - In this paragraph, you will begin with **your opinion** about one of the topics raised in the documentary. Do you agree or disagree? Take a position. You will follow your topic sentence with two pieces of evidence from the podcast (quoted) and commentary to explain how your evidence supports your opinion. This paragraph should be at least eight sentences.

Warning against plagiarism and using AI for completing assignments: don't do it! Here is the school's policy directly from the handbook. If AI or plagiarism is detected, we will follow the school policy.

The usage or deployment of AI-based software or applications on any assignment is prohibited. This includes any software or application that incorporates an AI algorithm, machine learning, or natural language processing. The use of AI for unauthorized purposes, such as cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, will result in an immediate zero for a grade. These consequences will apply to any amount of AI used in the student's work.