

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignments*
2017-2018

***There are two tasks that you must complete before the first day of school.**

Task I: You are to carefully read and annotate *The Jungle* (Upton Sinclair). Please annotate according to the guidelines below. Bring your annotated copy of the novel on the first day of school.

Guidelines for Annotating Text

What should you annotate? Here is a list of things you should be annotating your text for as you read. *Highlighting and underlining alone do not make for annotations.* Your annotations must demonstrate your engagement with the text and must include comments. Use the margins of the book, the blank pages, and Post-It Notes.

- ✓ Note societal issues that the author raises. Connect to specific issues that are current today.
- ✓ Note and comment on the author's argument(s) and commentary on the issues he raises.
- ✓ Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- ✓ Comment on the actions or development of a character. Does the character change? Why? How? The result? Look for archetypes, foils, etc.
- ✓ Identify and comment on lines/quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- ✓ Express agreement or disagreement.
- ✓ Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- ✓ Note if you experience an epiphany.
- ✓ Write a bulleted synopsis of each chapter either on the first or last page of the chapter.
- ✓ Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can:
 - ❖ effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
 - ❖ point of view / effect
 - ❖ repetition of words, phrases, actions, events, patterns
 - ❖ narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events
 - ❖ irony
 - ❖ contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts
 - ❖ allusions
 - ❖ any other figure of speech or literary device
 - ❖ reliability of narrator
 - ❖ motifs or cluster ideas
 - ❖ tone / mood
 - ❖ imagery
 - ❖ themes
 - ❖ setting / historical period
 - ❖ symbols

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway. Approach the works with an open mind. Let them inspire you and stretch your imagination.

Task 2: As a means of keeping abreast of public discourse issues, you are required to follow a national columnist in a newspaper for five weeks during the months of June-August. You must collect five current, preferably consecutive op-ed columns by one author. Please note that these are NOT articles, but instead they are op-ed columns. Op-ed columns express the opinion of the author. Look at the work of several columnists before you choose the one you want to follow. Archives can be searched on some of the columnists' sites, but many publications require payment for articles older than one or two weeks. Therefore, check your columnist's web site weekly and **PRINT** the columns as you read them. Bring the printed and annotated columns to class the first day of school.

I. Read and annotate each of the columns by identifying/addressing each of the following in the margins:

- Speaker's tone and possible tone shifts
- Purpose
- Rhetorical strategies/figurative language
- Occasion
- Theme (big idea)
- Organization and arrangement
- Aristotelian appeals (pathos, ethos, logos)

II. Mark places in the text that evoke a reaction from you, be it laughter, anger, or confusion. Question what the writer is saying. Agree or disagree with him or her. Annotate for the following:

- How does s/he open the column?
- How does s/he close the column?
- How soon does s/he announce the thesis?
- How does s/he organize? What are the parts or sections of the column?
- How much is based on observation? Personal experience? Interviews? Fact?
- What sort of diction characterizes the columnist?
- What sort of syntax characterizes the columnist?
- What audience does s/he assume? How do you know?
- What unstated assumptions (warrants) does the columnist make?

Resources

Sample Publications (usually you may access op-ed columns by simply clicking on "Opinion" tab of a publication's website):

The Miami Herald

The Los Angeles Times

The New York Times

The Washington Post

The Boston Globe

The Nation (note this is a left-wing publication—conservatives, beware.)

Suggestions:

Realize that some writers are more conservative and some more liberal. Choose whomever you like (the person does not have to be on this list).

Anne Applebaum (Washington Post) Mark Bowden (Philadelphia Inquirer) David Brooks (NY Times) Richard Cohen (Washington Post) Gail Collins (NY Times) Meghan Daum (LA Times) E.J. Dionne (Washington Post) Ross Douthat (NY Times) Thomas Friedman (NY Times) Georgie Anne Geyer (UPS - uexpress.com) Ellen Goodman (Boston Globe) Fred Grimm (Miami Herald) Jane Healy (Orlando Sentinel) Bob Herbert (NY Times) Carl Hassen

(Miami Herald) Arianna Huffington (huffingtonpost.com) David Ignatius (Washington Post) Fred Kaplan (Slate.com) Charles Krauthammer (Washington Post) Nicholas Kristof (NY Times) Paul Krugman (NY Times) Dahlia Lithwick (Slate.com) Doyle McManus (LA Times) Peggy Noonan (Wall Street Journal) Andres Oppenheimer (Miami Herald) Kathleen Parker (Washington Post) Leonard Pitts (Miami Herald) Anna Quindlen (Newsweek) Rick Reilly (Sports Illustrated/ESPN mag.) Frank Rich (NY Times) Eugene Robinson (Washington Post) Gregory Rodriguez (LA Times) Debra Saunders (San Francisco Chronicle) Jackie Bueno Sousa (Miami Herald) Andrew Sullivan (TheDailyBeast.com) Lynn Sweet (Chicago Sun-Times) Phil Taylor (Sports Illustrated) George F. Will (Washington Post) Fareed Zakaria (Newsweek)

Check also weekly editions of *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*. These publications have a columnist, usually near the end of the issue.