

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading List

All AP English Lang. and Composition students are to read a total of **FOUR** selections:

- William Zinsser's *On Writing Well* (required)
- Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture* (required)

Be prepared to respond in writing to what you read upon your return to school.

There may also be a test on the two required text on the first day or during the first week.

You must keep a reflective journal for the 2 student choice books. See below

Student Choice - Choose 2 of the following:

- Barry, John M. *The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History.*
- Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods.*
- Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood.*
- Carr, Nicholas. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains.*
- Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring.*
- Didion, Joan. *The Year of Magical Thinking.*
- Gladwell, Malcom. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking.*
- Krakauer, Jon. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster.*
- Kurlansky, Mark. *Salt: A World History.*
- Levitt, Steve D. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything.*
- Levy, JoAnn. *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*
- Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma.*
- Roberts, Cokie. *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation.*
- Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.*
- Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us.*

How to create the journal:

[Log 10+ entries from throughout each book \(Beg./middle/end\)](#)

Double-Entry Journal Format—The paper will be typed and should be divided in half vertically. They will be submitted as a hard copy on the first day of school, and you should also be prepared to submit to Turnitin.com then also. **One side is a quote from the text.** This left side should be at least three lines and no more than one short paragraph, fully written out and cited with the page number. The quotes should be chosen because you believe that they represent a key point about a theme or a character in the novel or key idea or message in nonfiction texts.

The other side should contain your comments and observations. On the right side, articulate the following:

- For nonfiction: you might focus on what stands out--makes you think deeply (ah-ha moments) or question what the author is saying, what seems confusing, what seems unusual, what personal connections you can make, or how word choice, examples, structural elements etc. impact you as a reader.