

2018 AP Language Summer Assignment

Welcome to the most important class in high school! As you know, in college you will do lots of reading and writing, mostly non-fiction, and this class will reflect that. As we read and write, we will analyze how a rhetor (writer or speaker) uses language to achieve desired effects in an audience. You will begin that process this summer by completing the two tasks below. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Coach Fowler, either by email, or joining his Remind 101 account.

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News Analysis Assignment:

For AP Language, you must be aware of major events in the world, AND how they are being discussed publicly. To ensure this, you will READ (no television or video sources) and analyze **FIVE NEWS EDITORIALS** this summer and complete a SOAPSTone analysis for each. A SOAPSTone can be found on my teacher page of the school website. If you are not familiar with a topic, you may need to read news *articles*, but your sources for your assignment should be news *editorials*. This means they are definitely biased, presenting the author's opinion on a subject based on a set of facts. They can usually be found on the source's website under the Opinion, Commentary, or Editorial category, though some are organized by category rather than type.

- Remember, you must cover five separate categories. Do not cover the same category twice.
- Four articles must be related to these domestic (U.S.) issues: Money in Politics, Budget and Taxes, Minimum Wage, Welfare/Poverty, Health Care/Obamacare, Immigration (legal and/or illegal), Sexuality (Gay Marriage, Gender-neutral Public Bathrooms), Sexism (Equality/Gender Bias, Equal Pay, etc.), Education Policy/Standardized Testing, School Safety, Surveillance (NSA or other types), 2nd Amendment/Gun Control, Energy Sources and Policy, Food and/or water supply/shortage, Incarceration, AI, Medical Ethics.
- One article must be related to these international issues: Drone Warfare, Climate Change, Refugee Crisis in Europe, War (any area where America is or may become involved in war), trade war.

Acceptable news sources: Atlanta Journal Constitution, Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio, National Review, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, plus the Fox or CNN websites, but not television or video. The Week is all high-quality editorial. If you have any questions about a possible news source, or what constitutes an editorial, feel free to contact Coach Fowler.

Non-fiction Text Analysis

Read the extended editorial *an inconvenient truth: the crisis of global warming*. Remember that the book is ten years old, and a great deal has changed regarding the science of global warming and the propaganda surrounding this issue.

As you read, you will create a double-entry journal with 20 total entries set up as shown on back. Each explanation should be 50-100 words.

- **Ten entries:** These are for you to make your own personalized comments on passages as you read. Entries should show that you are thinking about the topic while you are reading.
- **Six entries:** Identify and explain a total of six passages that present a particular aspect of the topic. Your task is not to debate the scientific accuracy of these passages, but rather the presentation of the argument. You will identify and explain three that present a strong/convincing argument and three that are weak. Think about the criteria used for grading essays. Does the author make a good POINT, include quality EVIDENCE, and provide a convincing EXPLANATION? Bonus points if you identify poor uses of language.
- **Two entries:** Identify two pictures. List the page number, location and brief description in the left-hand column. Explain how they are or are not effectively used to supplement the argument at the point in the book.
- **Two entries:** Identify two charts, data or some form of graphic representation of information. List the page number and location in the left-hand column. Explain how they are or are not effectively used to supplement the argument at the point in the book.

	Text Quote or Picture/Data Location	Response/Explanation
Ten Free Response Entries	“To see the Earth as it truly is, small and blue and beautiful in that eternal silence where it floats, is to see ourselves as riders on the Earth together” (pg. 12).	I always really liked that picture of the world, like a big marble. I used to want to be an astronaut, so I could space walk and see sights like this. Plus, I always loved nature, and this is the ultimate picture of it, everything all in one. It works as a great start to a book that is about how important it is for us to stop damaging the environment we need to live. I hate when people say to save the planet. Earth doesn't need us. We need it. (91 words).
Six Argument Analysis Entries	Quote the passages and page numbers as shown above.	<i>Explain three strong AND three weak arguments.</i> The argument here is very weak. Since every logical person knows that if global warming continues, the Earth will just melt like a popsicle, he should have explained how long it will take to melt, and whether we can build a big enough freezer to keep it cold. Maybe we can just keep parts of it cold, and everyone else can just get a suntan. If he had explained that, maybe the argument wouldn't be so weak. (77 words)
Two Pictures	<i>List the page number, location on the page, and a brief description of the picture.</i>	<i>Explain how each picture is/is not effective to supplement that passage.</i>
	Page 69, top: Katrina refugees	This picture is not effective because everyone knows they were really just camping out for Black Friday. It was just fake news. In an issue as important as climate change, we must stick with the facts. If water levels were really rising, then no one would be thirsty. Plus, everyone could just go fishing more. Gore already mentioned how much he likes fishing. If the picture showed people melting, that would be very convincing. (74 words)
Two Charts/ data	<i>List the page number, location on the page, and a brief description of the data.</i>	<i>Explain how each graph/data is/is not effective to supplement that passage.</i>
	Page 138-139, bottom: population growth timeline	This is really effective. It shows that if we keep growing, we will be able to sell everyone an iPhone and make Apple so rich. If Apple gets rich, then their phones will be the coolest ever, like something from science fiction. The chart shows that we will have a bright future. Gore wants to imagine a world of 10 billion people, all with iPhones. Then they will be so distracted that they don't notice they are drowning and don't have enough food. (83 words)