

**SUMMER READING**  
**AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION STUDENTS**  
**2018 – 2019**

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. My expectation is that you will be engaged and purposeful with these assignments, so I have limited the amount of work you have. Rushed or ill-considered writing and analysis are easy to spot. Your grades will be based on quality.

**Reading deeply and carefully is important. Inaccurate or incomplete work will negatively impact your grade. In addition, it will indicate a lack of work ethic before the year begins.**

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**WRITING**

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There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.

Ernest Hemingway

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**Read William Zinsser’s *On Writing Well***

You are responsible for Parts 1, 2 and 4; the Principles, the Methods and the Attitudes

Write a two page essay in which you reflect upon five of Zinsser’s areas (Principles and Methods) and how each applies to your writing style. These may be areas of strengths or weaknesses.

Clearly state and explain the quality.

Clearly state why you chose each quality. Be specific.

Your writing style should clearly reflect the lessons you’ve learned.

**Complete this assignment before reading *Hillbilly Elegy***

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**AMERICAN LITERATURE**

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I think if German literature could survive the ‘40s and Russian literature could survive Sovietism, then American Literature can survive Google.

Joshua Cohen

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**Read J.D. Vance’s *Hillbilly Elegy*.**

After reading the book, write a two page essay following the MLA stylesheet that answers the question below.

In his book, *Democracy in America*, French historian Alexia de Tocqueville claims the American Dream is the charm of anticipated success. In 1931, historian James Adams first defined the American Dream as “that dream of a land that should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement”.

Trace the idea of the American Dream through Vance’s book. How do the above ideas fit with the people in *Hillbilly Elegy*? What determines success or failure? Who is responsible and ultimately who pays the price for failure to attain the Dream. Is the American Dream attainable?

Submit both the rough draft and the final draft. At the end of the final draft, include a half page reflection on how the lessons learned in *On Writing Well* influenced your final draft.

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**DEADLINES / QUESTIONS**

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I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.

Douglas Adams

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**All assignments are due on the FIRST day of school.**

You should expect formal assessments of your comprehension of these books the first week of school.

All questions should be directed to Linda Jones at [jonesl1@fultonschools.org](mailto:jonesl1@fultonschools.org)

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