

**AP Language and Composition**  
**Summer Assignment 2023**  
**Mr. Chris Lux**

**1. Current essays.** Visit <https://www.aldaily.com/essays-and-opinions/> throughout the summer. Read an essay that interests you. Print out the essay, and mark it up. Highlight important ideas. Write your thoughts, comments, and reactions in the margins. Note new words, look them up, and write the definition on the page. Jot down questions. You will hand in **three** of these annotated essays on **the first day of class**.

**2. Non-Fiction Book Report.** Choose a book from the list below. Read the book. Write a report on the book (5-6 typed pages, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font).

- Explain the overall message of the book.
- Discuss the main points the author is making.
- Present and discuss at least two passages that you think are particularly well-written; discuss the style of the author.
- Explain what you, as a reader, brought to the book (interest, knowledge, experiences, biases, etc.).
- Tell about the most significant thing you learned from reading the book.

The book report will be submitted **the first day of class**.

Non-Fiction Suggestions

1. *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again.* David Foster Wallace. A collection of humorous, thoughtful essays on agricultural fairs, playing tennis in a wind storm, going on a cruise ships, and many other ideas. Highly recommended.
2. *Consider the Lobster.* David Foster Wallace. Another amazing collection of essays.
3. *Fast Food Nation.* Eric Schlosser. A book on the evils of the fast food industry, but with plenty of science, like how to make the perfect fries.
4. *Reading Lolita in Tehran.* Azar Nafisi. A story of courage and refusal to accept unfair restrictions. A university professor continues to hold secret meetings to read the classics of literature.
5. *Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. students who Took Vegas for Millions.* Ben Mezrich.
6. *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Lives of Adolescent Girls.* Mary Pipher.
7. *Amusing Ourselves to Death.* Neil Postman. A critical look at what the media does to us.

8. *The Collapse of Globalism*. John Ralston Saul. For those of you with an interest in economics.
9. *In Cold Blood*. Truman Capote. Non-fiction story of a brutal double murder and the town's reaction to the two murderers.
10. *A Natural History of the Senses*. Diane Ackerman. Our five senses explained and written about in gorgeous prose.
11. *Into the Wild*. Jon Krakauer. The mesmerizing, heartbreaking tale of an enigmatic young man who goes missing in the wild and whose story captured the world's attention.
12. *Letters from the Earth*. Mark Twain. While not all of these pieces qualify strictly as non-fiction, it is a great introduction to his writing and ideas.
13. *The Exact Location of the Soul*. Richard Selzer. A surgeon who writes thoughtful, intelligent prose about issues of life and death.
14. *Nickel and Dimed*. Barbra Ehrenreich. Real life tales of trying to make a living in contemporary United States.
15. *How the Universe Got its Spots: Diary of a Finite Time in a Finite Space*. Janna Levin. A speculation on the nature of the cosmos told as a personal diary of an astrophysicist and a series of letters to her mother.
16. *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*. Ted Conover. A writer takes a job at a Sing Sing maximum security prison in New York and writes about his experience.
17. *Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy*. Dave Hickey.
18. *The Bookseller of Kabul*. Asne Seierstad.
19. *War is a Force that Gives us Meaning*. Chris Hedges. Written by a war journalist for the New York Times, it mixes his experiences of war with war in literature to argue, not for the end of war, but to learn from its mistakes.
20. *Guns, Germs, Steel*. Jared Diamond. Fascinating book that shows how history has been changed by guns, germs, and steel.
21. *The Middle of Everywhere; Helping Refugees Enter the American Community*. Mary Pipher.
22. *The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College*. Jacques Steinberg. Just exactly how do they decide who gets to go to an elite university?
23. *The Universe in a Nutshell*. Stephen Hawking.
24. *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*. Mary Roach
25. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*. Tim Wise
26. *Join Me*. Danny Wallace. A former journalist places an enigmatic ad in a newspaper that said "Join Me." This is the story of the result of his placing that ad.
27. *Chronicles*. Bob Dylan
28. *The Joy of Music*. Leonard Bernstein.
29. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Dee Brown
30. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*. Iris Chang
31. *Civilization: A Personal View*. Kenneth Clark

32. *The Chronicle of Jazz*. Mervyn Cook.
33. *What to Listen for in Music*. Aaron Copland.
34. *The Broken Cord*. Michael Dorris. A university professor adopts a young Native American boy who suffers from fetal alcohol syndrome. The book is about raising the young boy.
35. *Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught me About Who We Are*. Roger Fouts
36. *Father Greg and the Homeboys. The Extraordinary Journey of Father Greg Boyle and His work with the Latino Gangs of East L.A.* Celeste Fremon.
37. *The Power of Photography. How Photography Changed Our Lives*. Vicki Goldberg
38. *Water, Ice and Stone. Science and Memory on the Antarctic Lakes*. Bill Green.
39. *A Brief History of Time*. Stephen Hawking.
40. *Hiroshima*. John Hersey.
41. *Where She Danced*. Elizabeth Kendall
42. *Stomping the Blues*. Albert Murray
43. *Invention by Design: How Engineers Get From Thought to Thing*. Henry Petroski
44. *Fernat's Enigma: The Epic Quest to Solve the World's Greatest Mathematical Problem*. Singh, Simon
45. *African Exodus: The Origins of Modern Humanity*. Christopher Stringer and Robin McKie.
46. *The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher*. Lewis Thomas.
47. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Maya Angelou. African-American writer traces her coming of age.
48. *Walden: Life in the Woods*. Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau spends 26 months alone in the woods to "front the essential facts of life."
49. *How Soccer Explains the World*. Franklin Foer. Soccer is much more than a game, or even a way of life.