

Mrs. Jacqueline Sienkowski, J.D.  
Cornelia Connelly School  
Department of English  
[jsienkowski@connellyhs.org](mailto:jsienkowski@connellyhs.org)

### **AP Language and Composition**

To incoming Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition Juniors:

As with most A.P. courses, Language and Composition is reading and writing-intensive. Most of the reading we will do is non-fiction, with a significant portion of the reading coming from 18th and 19th - century sources (1700s-1800s). Therefore, students enrolled in this course should love reading, writing, and U.S. history.

### **SUMMER READING:**

All AP Language and Composition students will read the following **before** class begins in the Fall:

- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote  
ISBN: 978-0-8129-9438-4
- Read Chapter 1, *An Introduction to Rhetoric* (Pages 1 through 40) In your text book *Conversations in American Literature*, and Complete ALL “Activity” sections found on pages 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 17, 20, 24, 26, 31, 33, and 34. All “Activity” lessons will be typed, printed, and placed into a folder to be collected during the first week of class.
- Read: *The Classical Argument* adapted from Walter H. Beale, Real Writing (**Uploaded – Please Print**)
- On four different Sunday’s (it is up to you, which four Sunday’s you choose), read a review of a non-fiction book from either The New York Times “Book Review” or The New York Review of Books. Both are available online and for free (provided you do not go over ten articles per month. After that, there is a pay wall).

### **SUMMER WRITING:**

- 1) In a binder of at least 1-inch, create a section titled “Book Reviews.” On loose leaf paper that you will place into this section, write four brief summaries of a book review that you chose to read. Begin by properly citing the book under review at the top of the page. Make note of the reviewer’s name and any pertinent biographical information (institutional affiliations, relevant books he/she has written; i.e., why was this person asked to write the review?). Your summary should be 1-2 paragraphs and no longer (preferably just one paragraph). Summaries should offer a concise statement about the subject of the book, and an equally concise and clear paraphrase of the reviewer’s chief criticisms and compliments.
- 2) Using the book reviews that you’ve read as a model, write your own review (500-800 words) of *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.
- 3) Recall that you are responsible for completing all “Activity” assignments from your text, as mentioned above in the **Summer Reading** section.