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AP Language and Composition

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

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

All AP Lang. and Comp. students will read the following **before** class begins in the Fall.
The summer reading assignments are as follows:

-Read *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (ISBN: 978-8129-9438-4)

-Read chapter 1, *An Introduction to Rhetoric* (pages 1-40), in your textbook *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 completed “Activity” lessons must 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) (credit to the Winthrop University Writing Center)

-On four different Sundays (it is up to you which four Sundays 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 paywall).

The summer writing assignments are as follows:

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 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. This will be turned into Turnitin.com on the first day of class.

3. Recall that you are responsible for completing all “Activity” assignments from your text, as mentioned about in the **summer reading** section.