

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading

Choose ONE of the following contemporary non-fiction books. You will need to procure your own copy of this book from Amazon or a bookstore. Plan ahead! Do not wait until the last minute to get your book or you may find it difficult to do so. I encourage you to talk to your friends – if someone else is interested in reading the same book, you can discuss the book together as you read. You also may be able to get used or sale copies online at Amazon.com or download a digital copy.

All of the following choices have won literary awards or critical recognition for their investigative writing. I have read and enjoyed them all; there is a little something for everyone here. Some books may contain strong language. I highly encourage you to read reviews and the first few pages of the book before deciding which book is best for you. I want you to read a book that you will enjoy! **Do not choose a book that may be objectionable to either you or your parents.**

Consider what the author wants his audience to learn from his book. Use sticky notes or otherwise make note of passages that are compelling or eye-opening to you. Consider how these passage reveal or provide evidence for the author's overall purpose and message.

- *The Blind Side* by Michael Lewis
- *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond
- *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D Vance
- *Columbine* by Dave Cullen
- *Nickel and Dimed*- Barbara Ehrenreich
- *I Am Malala*- Malala Yousafzai
- *The Audacity of Hope*- Barack Obama

Essay:

Based on the choice book you read, you will write an essay that will be due the first week of school. Your essay should be **no more than 2 pages long, typed, double spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman.**

Essay Prompt:

In this essay, you must explain the author's message or purpose; why did he/she write this novel? What issue is discussed or revealed as the author pieces together the facts and anecdotes related to the highlighted social issue. Pay attention to the author's use of ethos, pathos, and logos and the manner in which the author organizes the text. Begin your essay with a thesis statement that asserts the author's message or purpose. Then, using evidence from the text in the form of quotes, explain how key ideas or facts support and develop this message. Be sure to make an assertion, provide evidence, and then comment on and explain the evidence as you develop your essay.

Student Choice Socratic Seminar- First Week of School

You may use your book, your essay, and any notes you took on the book. Consider the following questions and ideas as conversation starters for this socratic. Remember, AEC is primary. 1.) Make an assertion, either an idea you noticed in the book or your own opinion; 2.) present either explicit and specific details from the book or actual quotes (best) as evidence; 3.) provide ample commentary to explain your thinking.

1. What is a primary issue presented in this book? Present a brief summary and include specific details.
2. What is the exigence of this issue? Why is it important right now? Why should Americans be concerned with the issue?
3. Chose a scene or specific detail that showcases an issue. Refer to the scene and explain what the scene or detail reveals to the reader.
4. Make note of any interesting rhetorical moves the author made. Use of Ethos, Pathos, Logos; structure of the argument, inclusion of specific details, unexpected moves. If you select a striking scene or detail, try to identify what the author has done with diction or syntax to create such a striking scene.
5. The Isle of Ramifications: All issues have ramifications, better known as consequences or results. Not all issues have all these ramifications. Look at the graphic below. What ramifications do the issues presented in your book create? Choose a ramification that an issue presented in the book might have in our society and discuss.

