

AP Language & Composition: Summer Reading 2023

Ms. Henderson

Required summer reading titles:

A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster, Rebecca Solnit
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, Bryan Stevenson

Recommended title:

Jay Heinrichs, *Thank You for Arguing* (revised and updated edition)

Directions

You are to read and annotate both texts over the summer. You will also submit a reading journal for each book (specifications below). You may maintain the journal as you read, or you may write it upon completion of the text. Journals will be submitted upon your return to school in the fall.

Reading Journals

This assignment is intended to help you interact with the text in meaningful ways. It also compels you to think on paper before coming to class. This informal piece will provide a basis for class discussions and assessments.

Requirements: showcase your thinking

Your journal must demonstrate the following:

- Reader response: track your reactions to the text. Consider answering any of these:
 - What inspires, challenges, or unsettles you?
 - Where and how does the text generate epiphanies (“Aha! moments”) for you?
 - How does the text invite you to reconsider your own worldview?
- Interrogation: ask (and attempt to answer) questions about the text. Consider examining any of these:
 - Author’s purpose for writing
 - Author’s choices in crafting their writing
 - Author’s background: expertise, position in society, potential biases
 - Read “against” the text: can you push back on any assumptions, evidence, or arguments presented by the author?
- Inquiry: what does this text make you want to learn more about? Conduct preliminary outside research to deepen your understanding.

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Requirements: content

- Evidence: use quotes, paraphrases, and details to illustrate your thinking; about 20% of your paper should be quoted material; use MLA-style parenthetical references
- BME: be sure to cite content from the beginning, middle, and end of the text to demonstrate a thorough reading of it
- Arrangement: you may write several short entries or one long one for the text; just be sure that you consistently showcase your thinking according to the requirements above

Requirements: format

- 4-6 typed pages (per journal)
- Double spaced, Times New Roman font (Arial hurts my eyeballs, and Comic Sans hurts my soul)

Assessment

Each journal is scored holistically according to the guidelines below. Effort and thoughtfulness are the key considerations.

Scoring

Masterful (6): Response, interrogation, and inquiry demonstrate sophistication of thought and a complex understanding of the text. Compelling evidence is judiciously cited in order to illustrate the writer's thinking. Text is treated with thoroughness. All ideas are communicated effectively and suit an informal yet academic medium.

Proficient (5): Response, interrogation, and inquiry demonstrate a well-considered but more generalized treatment of the text. Relevant evidence is employed to illustrate the author's thinking. Text demonstrates BME but with less consistency than an exemplary paper. Most ideas are communicated clearly, and the writer's voice is generally appropriate for the medium.

Developing (4): Response, interrogation, and inquiry are inconsistently developed. Evidence may be cursory, less relevant, or presented without adequate context. Thorough reading of the text may be in doubt. Writer's style is uneven and ideas may be convoluted or vague.

Beginning (3 or below): Journal represents a superficial and incomplete consideration of the text. Evidence is missing or irrelevant. Writer's style is error-prone and/or inappropriate for the medium.

**** Please note: a pattern of grammar errors may lower the score of an otherwise effective paper. ****