

# AP Lang Summer Assignments 2023-2024

May 10, 2023

Dear Future Student,

Hello, and welcome! I'm so excited that you have chosen to take one of the most stimulating and rewarding classes offered at MCHS. As you know, AP courses are designed to be challenging, but I will be here to guide you through it all. This is my very first year teaching this course, so you and I will be able to learn this material together as we collaborate throughout the year.

Your work for me will be the **Knowledge Builders assignment**, a fact-gathering, critical thinking challenge to broaden your knowledge of the world around you. Use the **Resources** provided to get started but know that you are encouraged to follow your interests. Do you want to explore several topics, or would you rather dive deep into just a few true passions -- gender equality, cancer biology, or the Trail of Tears, for example? I hope you'll take the chance to learn more about things you're interested in and start our year together from a place of authenticity and curiosity. I have made an effort to include resources and suggestions so that students at all levels of income and technology access can complete the assignments successfully.

A few cautionary notes. Remember that you have elected to take a college-level class, and it is possible that you may encounter some mature content even in the summer assignments given the nature of the topics you will be investigating. If you aren't sure whether an activity is appropriate for the classroom, just ask. Second, the summer assignments provide a foundation on which we will build our work this year.

Reach out if you need any support. If you have questions or concerns at any point, please email me directly at [hcrisp@mcmminnschools.com](mailto:hcrisp@mcmminnschools.com) send me a message on Remind or call the school at (423) 745-4142. I believe we are going to have a fantastic year, and we'll start with an enriching summer.

All the best,



Miss Crisp

TWO things to do ASAP

☐ : **1. Email Me** at from your school email address:  
[hcrisp@mcmminnschools.com](mailto:hcrisp@mcmminnschools.com)

**Email Subject: AP Lang 2023**

1. Your first and last names (name you go by)
2. Your birthday
3. Your cell phone number
4. Tell me, what are you hoping to get out of taking AP Lang?

5. Choose a topic: (1) *Race, Class, and Gender*; (2) *Earth, Science, and Technology*; or (3) *Economy, Leadership, and Governance*. Tell me, which of these do you find most interesting and **why?** (answer in a few sentences, please)

☐ **2. Register for Remind**

**Class Code: @crisaplant23**

**If you prefer Text Notifications:**

Text the message [@crisaplant23](https://www.remind101.com/join/@crisaplant23) to the number 81010.

## Knowledge Builders Instructions

- ☐ Complete at least 5 activities from the activity list (pages 3-4),
- ☐ Each activity must come from a different category.
- ☐ Category #1 – Extended Nonfiction – is required for all students.
- ☐ For each activity, complete a Reflection Journal (see instructions on page 2).
- ☐ See page 5 for an example and evaluation rubric.

### REQUIREMENTS for the whole assignment:

- Write your responses in ink or type them in a Word document, one page per activity. You will have six or more pages **IN ONE DOCUMENT**.
- Make sure your name is on the first page of the document and the outside of the package if hard copy. Hard copy work should be stapled or placed in a small folder.
- All work is due on the first day of school. Digital work will be submitted through Teams. Wait for submission instructions on the first day of school.

### REQUIREMENTS for each Reflection:

1. Indicate the **category number** near the top of the page.
  2. **Citation:** Provide as much as possible of the following information for each activity:  
*Author/Creator, Title, Genre, Publisher, Creation Date, and date of your experience.*
  3. Write a **reflection** approximately one page in length, using the prompts below as suggested topics. You may address one or more questions in each reflection. Reflection prompts should demonstrate engagement with activity, curiosity, and thoughtfulness.
- ✓ The word “text” may be used to refer to written text, film, audio, or even an experience.

### REFLECTION PROMPTS (choose different prompts throughout the assignment)

- A. What do I know/understand now that I didn’t before? How did this text/experience change the way I think about something?
- B. What is a thought, idea, or perspective that I might not have considered if I hadn’t encountered this material?
- C. What is the writer’s purpose? What does he/she hope to accomplish through this work? How do you know? Explain.
- D. Write about something in the text/experience that intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses or aggravates you. Include a quotation if possible and your response.
- E. Choose a passage/portion of the text that you think is just outstanding writing. Include the passage (or describe it) and articulate why you find this selection so powerful.
- F. What patterns do you see emerging in the text? Does the author repeat certain words or phrases? Topics? Symbols? Images? Techniques? What is the effect of this pattern?
- G. Who is the author’s intended audience? Describe the group or subgroup of people the author is trying to persuade or inform. What assumptions about the audience does the writer make?
- H. What can you tell about how the author conducted his/her research prior to writing?

## Knowledge Builders Activities

**Extended Nonfiction— REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Choose one. Bold type indicates highly recommended

1. ☐ *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives* – Dashka Slater
- ☐ ***The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet* – John Green**
- ☐ *All Over But the Shoutin'* – Rick Bragg
- ☐ *Blue Pastures* – Mary Oliver
- ☐ *The End of Nature* – Bill McKibben
- ☐ *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* – Elizabeth Kolbert
- ☐ *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* – Denise Kiernan
- ☐ *Hidden Figures*– Margot Lee Shetterly
- ☐ *I'll Be Gone in the Dark*– Michelle McNamara
- ☐ *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot
- ☐ *Into the Wild* – Jon Krakauer
- ☐ *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping us Hooked* – Adam Alter
- ☐ ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*– Bryan Stevenson**
- ☐ *Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting By in America* – Barbara Ehrenreich
- ☐ *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*– Wes Moore
- ☐ *Outliers: The Story of Success*– Malcolm Gladwell
- ☐ *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* — Nicholas Carr
- ☐ *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* – Mary Roach
- ☐ ***Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* – Adam Grant**

**Available free online (Out of copyright)**

- ☐ *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* – Ben Franklin
- ☐ *How the Other Half Lives* – Jacob Riis
- ☐ *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* – Harriet Jacobs
- ☐ ***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* – Frederick Douglass**

**Reading about Writing—**Learn about writing from an expert.

2. ☐ *On Writing* – Stephen King
- ☐ *Bird by Bird* – Anne Lamott
- ☐ *The Elements of Style*\* – Strunk & White
- ☐ *They Say, I Say* – Graff and Birkenstein
- ☐ *Another book by a successful published writer, on the topic of writing*
- \* Available free online (out of copyright)

**Informational Film**

3. ☐ Watch a documentary (see list of resources)
- ☐ Watch a film based on a historical event, scientific event, political or governmental issue, or journalists/journalism
- ☐ For "extra credit," watch multiple films addressing the same topic and compare.

**Informational Podcasts (see resources)**

4. ☐ Listen to an informative podcast or radio show\* based on one of the following topics historical events, science, political or governmental issues, or journalists/journalism
- ☐ For "extra credit," listen to several episodes of the same show, or several shows on the same topic.

\*NPR plays several radio shows that fit these criteria (88.1 WUTC- Chattanooga; 91.9 WUOT- Knoxville)

- Literature/The Arts**
5. ☐ Read a major work of fiction (see list in Resources)
- ☐ Watch a major live theater, dance, or opera broadcast online
- ☐ Do a virtual tour of an art museum online
- ☐ Other activity in the arts (email me for approval)

- Current Events Coverage**
6. ☐ Read/watch/listen to the news from **two** of the following news sources regularly for two weeks. Take notes on what you hear and notice. Address their similarities and differences in your reflections.
- Fox News
  - CNN News
  - *The New York Times*
  - *The Washington Post*
  - National Public Radio
  - *The Daily Post Athenian*

- Magazine Articles**
7. ☐ Read a feature article of 3+ pages long from a major nationwide magazine (see list of resources) on one of the following topics (or a combination):
- History/ Government/Politics/Leadership
  - Science/Technology/Health/Earth/Environment
  - Economics/Poverty/Justice/Equality (race, gender, sexuality, etc.)

- Have an Adventure**
8. ☐ Go on a hike or nature walk and record your observations
- ☐ Try fishing, camping, rock-climbing, or other outdoor activity
- ☐ Visit a National Park, State Park, National Forest, or other major park
- ☐ Visit a local history site, or research a piece of local history through books, internet, etc.
- ☐ Cook dinner for your family
- ☐ Volunteer with a local organization
- ☐ Learn something (i.e., playing an instrument, studying a new language, computer coding)
- ☐ Other? (Explain)

## Example REFLECTION

Jillian Ratti  
AP Language  
May 1, 2020

### Category 5: Literature/Arts

*Hamilton, the musical.* Written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, with performances by Miguel Cervantes, Akron Watson, Ta-Tynisa Wilson, and others. 12 Jun. 2019, CIBC Theater, Chicago.

I came out of *Hamilton* with so many thoughts and impressions. First, it made me realize how little I really know and understand about the founding of our country. It's been a long time since I studied Revolutionary history, and I'm pretty sure I considered it boring and irrelevant then. Thinking about who founded our country, for what reasons, and on what guiding principles strikes me now as absolutely essential. We're still arguing about so many of the same things that they argued about then— states' rights, north vs. south, economic management, and obviously, racial justice. I picked up a biography of George Washington that day, and I've been learning more about early American history ever since.

I think one of the themes of the show was the power of art, and specifically writing. The musical *Hamilton* was born when Miranda read a biography of Alexander Hamilton on vacation; Hamilton's success and influence were largely born and spread due to his skill as a writer. And now, because of Miranda's writing skills, this nearly forgotten historical figure is at the height of his popularity more than 200 years after his death. If that isn't a testament to the power of art, I don't know what is. I think Miranda wants the audience to realize the power of art and writing for themselves.

The other purpose I think Miranda had in mind was communicating the power of diversity. Miranda's choice to cast actors of color and diverse ethnicities in these iconic roles was a fascinating and provocative choice. I suspect that it's impossible not to see George Washington, for example, in a new light when he looks so different from the aged portraits, we're immune to from seeing so often. Miranda wants us to think about how it took many minds, many perspectives, and many life experiences to find our country. And the extension of that is that it will take a collaboration of diverse perspectives to accomplish any significant goal.

### Summer Work Evaluation rubric

	Below Expectations	At Expectations
<b>Communication and Problem-Solving</b>	The student fails to communicate, communicates inappropriately, or does not take responsibility for solving problems. The student may give up easily or wait passively for a solution to be created on their behalf.	The student completes the email assignment and signs up for Remind. The student communicates respectfully and appropriately with the teacher, conveys problems and works to find solutions.
<b>Knowledge Builders</b>	Fewer than 6 activities are completed, or directions are not followed, and/or citations are not included or don't provide enough information.	At least six activities are completed, including an Extended Nonfiction book. Choice of activities displays curiosity and openness to learning.
<b>Reflection Journal</b>	Reflections are brief, unclear, and/or mostly summarize the events without reflecting. The prompts are generally not referenced. There is little evidence of curiosity, analysis, or learning.	Reflections are thorough and thoughtful, clearly reference one or more prompts, and display analytical thinking and curiosity.
<b>Presentation/Format/Appearance</b>	Work is illegible, poorly organized, difficult to navigate, falls apart, or the student's name is not clearly indicated. Work appears to have been done hastily at the last minute.	Responses are typed or written legibly. All work is neat and logically organized in a secure fashion. The student's name is clearly marked inside and outside.
<b>Language</b>	Language is not appropriate for academic work. May be written largely in incomplete sentences or overuse slang or abbreviations.	Prompts are answered in complete sentences with appropriate vocabulary for an academic assignment.
<b>Overall</b>	Summer work indicates the student may not be successful in AP English Language and Composition.	Summer work indicates the student is likely to be successful in AP English Language and Composition.

# Resources

## General Advice

A quick Google search can be extremely helpful. Spend some time choosing your adventures. Try phrases like these:

- "Science podcasts for teens"
- "Best documentaries on Netflix"
- "Best books about the civil rights movement"

## Book Sources

- E.G. Fisher public library\*
- READS online library (accessed with a library card) \*
- Mrs. Ratti has books that can be borrowed\*
- McKay's Used Books in Chattanooga or Knoxville
- Amazon is very helpful for researching book descriptions and reading reviews
- Amazon.com, Thriftbooks.com for purchasing used copies

## Recommended Works of Fiction

- 1984 – George Orwell
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
- All the King's Men – Robert Penn Warren
- All Quiet on the Western Front – Erich Maria Remarque
- The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay – Michael Chabon
- Americanah – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath
- Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
- Catch-22 – Joseph Heller
- The Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger
- Cold Mountain – Charles Frazier
- The Color Purple – Alice Walker
- Dune – Frank Herbert
- Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury
- Feed – M. T. Anderson
- Flight Behavior – Barbara Kingsolver
- The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck
- The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
- Homegoing – Yaa Gyasi
- In Cold Blood – Truman Capote
- Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë
- The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan
- Jurassic Park- Michael Crichton
- The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini
- The Left Hand of Darkness – Ursula Le Guin
- Middlesex – Jeffrey Eugenides
- Next – Michael Crichton
- The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver

- Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
- Purple Hibiscus – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Sing, Unburied, Sing – Jesmyn Ward
- Slaughterhouse Five – Kurt Vonnegut
- A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens
- The Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien
- A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini
- To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

## Magazines featuring credible, well-researched long-form articles

- The New York Times Magazine
- The Atlantic Magazine
- Time Magazine
- Newsweek Magazine
- National Geographic Magazine
- Popular Science Magazine
- Smithsonian Magazine
- Mrs. Ratti has magazines that can be borrowed\*

## Recommended Podcasts\*

### Science

- Flash Forward
- 30 for 30: On the Ice
- Last Week in Tech
- Radiolab
- Science Friday
- Gastropod
- Invisibilia
- Science Vs
- Sawbones
- Nature Podcast
- Every Little Thing

### History

- The Way I Heard It
- Revisionist History
- The New York Public Library Podcast
- Burnt Toast
- The Memory Palace
- Philosophize This!
- Backstory
- You Must Remember This
- 1,001 Heroes, Legends, Histories, & Mysteries
- NPR's TED Radio Hour

## Online Museum Exhibits\*

- The Louvre  
<https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne#tabs>
- The Guggenheim  
<https://www.guggenheim.org/collection-online>
- The National Gallery of Art  
<https://www.nga.gov/>
- The British Museum  
[https://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection\\_online/search.aspx](https://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/search.aspx)

- Smithsonian  
<https://www.si.edu/>
- Metropolitan Museum of Art  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-metropolitan-museum-of-art>
- NASA Space Center  
<https://spacecenter.org/>
- National Women's History Museum  
<https://www.womenshistory.org/>
- Google Art Project  
<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/about/artproject/>

## Tennessee Historical Sites

### Historic Homes

- Andrew Jackson's Hermitage (Nashville)
- James K. Polk Home (Columbia)
- Loretta Lynn's Ranch (Hurricane Mills)
- Andrew Johnson's Homestead (Greeneville)

### Civil War Sites

- Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park (Chattanooga)

### Museums

- Tennessee State Museum (Nashville)
- Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park (Pall Mall)
- Museum of East Tennessee History (Knoxville)
- McMinn Co. Living Heritage Museum (Athens)

### Landmarks & Historic Sites

- Sequoyah Birthplace Museum (Vonore)
- Red Clay State Historic Park (Cleveland)
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (various sites)
- Hiwassee River Heritage Center (Charleston)
- Cherokee Removal Memorial Park (Birchwood)

\*Free access