**Advanced Placement English Language 2019[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Summer Reading Assignment[[2]](#footnote-2)**

Mr. Joel Neden Ms. Lisa St. John

New Paltz High School New Paltz High School

jneden@newpaltz.k12.ny.us lstjohn@newpaltz.k12.ny.us

*Out of our quarrels with others we make rhetoric. Out of our quarrels with ourselves we make poetry.*

[*William Butler Yeats*](http://www.worldofquotes.com/author/William-Butler-Yeats/1/index.html)

The primary goal of summer reading at New Paltz High School is to help students become as successful as possible in each respective English class as well as other disciplines. Readers are better writers. Therefore, students are exposed to a variety of texts in order to broaden their perspective of the world, to expand their vocabulary, and to develop their reading and writing skills. **You will need to complete all THREE assignments listed.** Email Mr. Neden or Ms. St. John if you have any questions about the following assignments.

**Academic Integrity**

We expect that you utilize the utmost academic integrity when it comes to this and ALL assignments for AP English Language and Composition. Academic integrity is honesty and responsibility in scholarship.

The summer reading assignment should be the product solely of *your*thoughts, effort, and ideas.We are interested in *your* ideas, interpretations, and arguments. We want to know what *you* think. Your ideas are far more interesting than the ones regurgitated again and again on the internet. By visiting websites (like SparkNotes or Wikipedia) you will color your own thinking and limit your own ability to form independent thought. Although there will be some collaborative assignments throughout the school year, this is **not** one of them. **Do your own work.** You may not work in any way with someone else on these assignments. If your work shows any evidence of your having copied from a website, a classmate, or any other source, you will receive a **zero** on the assignment(s).

# Assignment #1: Summer Vocabulary List

Throughout the summer, study the vocabulary list provided. Be able to define and recognize examples of the following terms. Expect to complete a test on the following terms the first two weeks of the school year.

**Rhetorical Terms: (concepts and terminology related to rhetoric and argument)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| allegory  | alliteration  | allusion  | analogy  | anecdote  | irony  |   | metaphor  |
| oxymoron  | paradox  | parallelism  | parody  |  pun  | satire  |   | simile  |

**Literary and Rhetorical Devices: (useful for a discussion of writer's craft or tools a writer may employ)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| argument  |   | anecdote  |   | antithesis  |   | exigence  |
| rhetoric   |   | rhetorical modes  |   | discourse  |   | ethos, pathos, logos  |
|  style  |   | semantics  |   | colloquialism  |   | juxtaposition  |

**Literary and stylistic terms: (useful for a discussion of style---many you may already know)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| connotation   | denotation  | asyndeton  | ellipsis equivocation  |  voice  | syntax  |  | polysyndeton  |
| euphemism  | hyperbole  | juxtaposition  | malapropism archetype  | anaphora  | mood  |  | transition  |
|  non sequitur  | pedantic  | platitude  | understatement tone  | chiasmus  | diction  |  | sarcasm  |

# Assignment #2: Nonfiction Exposure: Podcasts and Documentaries

**Directions:** Choose **one** of the following **text sets**. Take notes while you listen/read and watch. Then, write a one-page response **synthesizing** information from the podcasts/articles while adding in your own personal reflections. Print your one-page response which is due the day we begin class together.

* For reflection ideas, ask yourself:
	+ How does this relate to me and the world I live in?
	+ How has this changed my thinking about the subject? What surprised me?
	+ What did I learn?
	+ How are these texts related?

**Text Set 1*.* American Education: Six podcasts from *This American Life***

“Is This Working?” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/538/is-this-working>

“The Problem We All Live With” Parts One and Two

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/562/the-problem-we-all-live-with><https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/563/the-problem-we-all-live-with-part-two>

“Harper High School” Parts One and Two

(Heads up: these episodes are about gun violence and teenagers) <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/487/harper-high-school-part-one><https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/488/harper-high-school-part-two>

“Three Miles” <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/550/three-miles>

**Thematically related documentary:**

*American Promise* directed by Joe Brewster and Michele Stephenson

**Text Set 2. The Human Body and Health: Four podcasts and Two articles**

“Guts” <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/197112-guts>

“Parasites” <http://www.radiolab.org/story/91689-parasites/>

“Boy Wonder” <https://gimletmedia.com/shows/reply-all/kwhx9v>

“The Reversal” <https://gimletmedia.com/shows/reply-all/awhmoj>

 “Is Sugar Toxic?” [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/17/magazine/mag-17Sugar-t.html?pagewanted=all&\_r=2&](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/17/magazine/mag-17Sugar-t.html?pagewanted=all&amp;_r=2)

“Host in the Shell” <http://thenewinquiry.com/essays/host-in-the-shell/>

**Thematically related documentary:**

*In the Defense of Food* directed by Michael Schwarz based on an award-winning book by Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*)

 **Assignment #3: Contemporary Inquiry**

Your path in AP Language and Composition is of your own volition. You will have many opportunities this school year to investigate, research, and wrestle with pertinent, contemporary questions. To prepare you for this exciting adventure, please choose a work from the list and read it. There may be an additional assessment when class resumes in the fall. But for now, please get a good book and read!

For some selections, there are copies available for you to borrow at the high school. Please visit the main office over the summer and sign out a copy of the book. You will, of course, be asked to return the book in the fall. Otherwise, you should download, borrow, or purchase your choice read on your own.

Be prepared to share and discuss your choice read in class this fall. The choices are listed below. Titles marked with an asterisk (\*) are available on loan in the HS main office.

1. *David and Goliath* Malcolm Gladwell

In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwellchallenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, suffer from a disability, lose a parent, attend a mediocre school, or endure any number of other apparent setbacks.

1. *\*Freakonomics* Levitt and Dunbar

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool?

What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common?

How much do parents really matter?

These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask. But Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He studies the riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to parenting and sports—and reaches conclusions that turn conventional wisdom on its head. Freakonomics is a groundbreaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They set out to explore the inner workings of a crack gang, the truth about real estate agents, the secrets of the Ku Klux Klan, and much more.

1. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, Bryan Stephenson

*Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

1. *Beauty Sick: How the Cultural Obsession with Appearance Hurts Girls and Women*, Renee Engeln

In Beauty Sick, Dr. Renee Engeln, whose TEDx talk on beauty sickness has received more than 250,000 views, reveals the shocking consequences of our obsession with girls’ appearance on their emotional and physical health and their wallets and ambitions, including depression, eating disorders, disruptions in cognitive processing, and lost money and time.

1. *The Narcissism Epidemic*, Jean Twenge and W. Keith Campbell

Narcissism—an inflated view of the self—is everywhere. Public figures say it’s what makes them stray from their wives. Parents teach it by dressing children in T-shirts that say "Princess." Teenagers and young adults hone it on Facebook, and celebrity newsmakers have elevated it to an art form. And it’s what’s making people depressed, lonely, and buried under piles of debt.

1. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking*, Susan Cain

In *Quiet,* Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture.

1. *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*, Sherry Turkle

We live in a technological universe in which we are always communicating. And yet we have sacrificed conversation for mere connection. Preeminent author and researcher Sherry Turkle has been studying digital culture for over thirty years. Long an enthusiast for its possibilities, here she investigates a troubling consequence: at work, at home, in politics, and in love, we find ways around conversation, tempted by the possibilities of a text or an email in which we don’t have to look, listen, or reveal ourselves.

1. *Wait, It Gets Worse: Love, Death, and My Transformation from Control Freak to Human Being*, Lydia Slaby

Lydia Slaby was 33 years old and had everything she believed would make her happy: three fancy private school degrees, a successful husband who was in the inner circles of Barack Obama’s presidential campaign, a high-paying job as an attorney—even an enviable yoga practice. But under the surface Lydia’s life was in free fall. When she made a doctor’s appointment to talk about the toll of extreme stress, she was instead admitted with a diagnosis of lymphoma. As a cancer survivor, Lydia tries to piece back together her marriage, her career, and her own worth. It’s an imperfect rebirth, but perfection is something she must abandon if she is to find a new, calm, healthy life.

1. *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress,* Michael Pinker

Is the world really falling apart? Is the ideal of progress obsolete? In this elegant assessment of the human condition in the third millennium, cognitive scientist and public intellectual Steven Pinker urges us to step back from the gory headlines and prophecies of doom, which play to our psychological biases. Instead, follow the data: In seventy-five jaw-dropping graphs, Pinker shows that life, health, prosperity, safety, peace, knowledge, and happiness are on the rise, not just in the West, but worldwide. This progress is not the result of some cosmic force. It is a gift of the Enlightenment: the conviction that reason and science can enhance human flourishing.

1. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, JD Vance

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for more than forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. With piercing honesty, Vance shows how he himself still carries around the demons of his chaotic family history. A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, Hillbilly Elegy is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

**Assignment Checklist**

* **Assignment #1 Summer Vocabulary List**
* **Assignment #2: Nonfiction Exposure: Podcasts and Documentaries**
* **Assignment #3: Contemporary Inquiry**
1. Some of this material has been adapted from a similar summer assignment: <https://www.southsidechristian.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-2019-AP-English-Lang-Summer-Reading.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This document is also available online at: http://nedensenglish.weebly.com [↑](#footnote-ref-2)