

AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2010

Read each of the following works carefully. Part of our study next year will involve the idea that “everything’s an argument” – from advertising to novels. In addition to developing a clear understanding of plot and character, think about the message of each book; what does the author want you to understand, to think, or to think about?

- ♦ Be prepared for an **objective reading test** on both books beginning the first day of class.
- ♦ All written assignments will be taken up on the **first day of class**.
- ♦ Failure to complete the assignment in its entirety or to turn in all written work on the first day of class will have a significant impact on your first quarter grade.
- ♦ We will discuss the following works and use them as the basis for your first writing assignment within the first weeks of school.

Assignment:

1. Read 1984 by George Orwell.

A. In a one-page (minimum), handwritten response, answer the following:

This book has been described as “a warning.” Indeed, throughout the text, Orwell plants both subtle and overt warnings to the reader. What do you think are some of the larger issues at hand here? Are they still relevant today? Support your responses with evidence from the text as well as contemporary examples.

B. Choose a passage that seems especially significant. In one or two handwritten paragraphs, discuss its relation to the novel as a whole and any elements of language that you find interesting within it.

2. Read Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.

A. In a one-page (minimum), handwritten response, answer the following:

Written as a prophetic fable, Brave New World is as much a warning as it is a satire. In 1932 Huxley made predictions about a future 600 years away. Within half a century, his predictions seemed less far-fetched than he had imagined. In what ways is today’s society reflective of the concerns expressed by Huxley? Support your response with evidence from the text as well as contemporary examples.

B. Choose a passage that seems especially significant. In one or two handwritten paragraphs, discuss its relation to the novel as a whole and any elements of language that you find interesting within it.

***For each of the above, I strongly suggest that you take notes for yourself (regarding, for example, themes, character, plot, elements of language), either in the text itself or in a notebook, that will be helpful to you during class discussion.

***Bring copies of both texts to class **everyday beginning with the first day of class**.

3. Read at least three essays from **one** of the following writers (all three essays should be by the **same** author):

Edward Abbey, Margaret Atwood, Francis Bacon, James Baldwin, Wendell Berry, Rachel Carson, Joan Didion, Annie Dillard, W.E.B. Dubois, Loren Eiseley, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Hazlitt, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Barry Lopez, Norman Mailer, Nancy Mairs, Margaret Mead, George Orwell, Amy Tan, Henry David Thoreau, Eudora Welty, E.B. White, or Virginia Woolf.

List the title and author, then answer the following questions for **each** essay:

- ♦ What is the author’s subject?
- ♦ What is the occasion?
- ♦ Who is the audience?
- ♦ What is the purpose of the essay?
- ♦ Who is the speaker (not a name, but what kind of person is the author based on how he/she writes the essay?)
- ♦ How does the essay begin? (i.e., with an anecdote, or question, or description, etc.)
- ♦ How does the essay end? (i.e., with an anecdote, or question, or description, etc.)

I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Feel free to email with questions: bbroadwe@greenville.k12.sc.us

This assignment is also posted on my website (accessible from the EHS homepage).