

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignments

Summer 2011 Mrs. Whitmire [to contact: kwhitmir@greenville.k12.sc.us]

Students enrolled in AP English Language and Composition should complete the following assignments prior to beginning the course. These assignments will be graded, but more importantly, the reading will be referenced throughout the course. Therefore, if you do not complete the work, you will receive three failing grades on major assignments and be at a disadvantage throughout the semester. Please e-mail me with any questions regarding the assignments. [kwhitmir@greenville.k12.sc.us]

****All assignments are due the second day of class.**

Assignment #1:

Students should read *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* by William K. Zinsser (25th or later edition) and take **handwritten**, bulleted notes of significant ideas in each chapter (approximately 1 page per chapter). Notes will be collected for a major assignment grade. Students should be prepared to write an essay comparing and contrasting his/her writing philosophy and/or experiences with Zinsser's. **NO TYPED NOTES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Assignment #2:

Students should read **ALL** of the essays in *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology* by Samuel Cohen (any edition) and take TAPS notes (format attached) for **10** different essays in the text. The TAPS form is also on my website. Handwritten **OR** typed notes will be collected for a major assignment grade. Many of the essays in this text will be referenced throughout the course.

Assignment #3:

Students should select and read an autobiography or biography of a famous literary, political, historical, or academic figure (no celebrities) and create a timeline of **15** significant events from the person's life. The timeline may be in whatever format you'd like, but should be neat and detailed. The timeline will also count as a major assignment grade. A later assignment in the course will require you to select and read an additional autobiography/biography of a different person with similar life circumstances for a comparison/contrast essay. If you have any questions about the appropriateness of a book, please e-mail me.

The books (used or new copies) are readily available in local bookstores and online. I have required these same texts for several years now, so previous AP Language students should also have copies of these books that they may wish to lend. I also have a few copies that I will lend on a first come, first serve basis.