

2018-2019  
11TH GRADE

# PRE-COURSE READING

## OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE

Welcome to AP English Language/Composition! By enrolling in this course, you have agreed to pursue college level challenges as a high school student, and because this course teaches you to read and write across many disciplines, you will experience a class unlike other English classes you have taken so far. After completing this pre-course reading, you will have expanded your reading repertoire, adding two nonfiction books from a well thought-out and discretionary recommendation list that offers recent publications, allowing you to experience more contemporary readings than possible within a public school setting's constraints. Reading two books before school starts reduces your AP Lang reading load from six books to four. You also practice skills required in the course, creating a foundation for the rigorous coursework ahead. Make sure your parents approve your choices.

## READING REQUIREMENTS (SEE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE REQUIREMENT)

You must choose **two books** (choose a third for bonus potential): **one** book from the American Author Choices **and one** book from the Science Topic Choices. You must find evidence from these books for your first process paper and first project, so annotate per the directions on the back. Annotating thoroughly will lead you directly to the project/paper, so the more detail and effort you put into annotating, the easier the project and paper will be for you.

### AMERICAN AUTHOR CHOICES

- *Advertisements for Myself* by Norman Mailer
- *America and Americans and Selected Nonfiction* by John Steinbeck
- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Anything We Love Can Be Saved* by Alice Walker
- *A Backwards Glance: An Autobiography* by Edith Wharton
- *Black Boy* by Richard Wright
- *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *The Journal of Joyce Carol Oates: 1973-1982* by Joyce Carol Oates
- *Letters from Earth* by Mark Twain
- *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway
- *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* by C. Shields
- *On Gold Mountain* by Lisa See
- *Opposite of Fate* by Amy Tan
- *Palm Sunday: An Autobiographical Collage* by Kurt Vonnegut
- *Scott Fitzgerald* by Jeffrey Meyers
- *Shadow and Act* by Ralph Ellison
- *Something to Declare: Essays* by Julia Alvarez
- *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage* by A. Patchett
- *What Moves at the Margin: Selected Nonfiction* by Toni Morrison

### SCIENCE TOPIC CHOICES

- *Air: The Restless Shaper of the World* by William B. Logan
- *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water* by Charles Fishman
- *Biography of a Germ* by Arno Karlen
- *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* by Nassim Nicholas Taleb
- *Demon in the Freezer* by Richard Preston
- *The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions, and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory* by Brian Greene
- *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* by Elizabeth Kolbert
- *Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal* by Mary Roach
- *How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, and the Quantum Revival* by David Kaiser
- *Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything* by Joshua Foer
- *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness* by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein
- *Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration into the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation, & Time Travel* by Michio. Kaku
- *The Primal Teen: What the New Discoveries about the Teenage Brain Tell Us about Our Kids* by Barbara Strauch
- *Reading in the Brain* by Stanislas Dehaene
- *Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature* by Matt Ridley
- *Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease* by Dr. Sharon Moalem
- *The World without Us* by Alan Weisman
- *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman
- *Voices in the Ocean: A Journey into the Wild and Haunting World of Dolphins* by Susan Casey
- *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body* by Neil Shubin

### BONUS OPPORTUNITY

Because you will miss taking American Literature, accept this opportunity to enjoy a taste of this country's sterling fiction (we read **no** fiction in AP Lang). Read a novel (fiction) by the same American author. By including information from this additional reading in your project, you can earn up to double the points.



## IMPORTANT: READ THIS BOX!

Both the paper and the project require documentation, meaning using both quotations and paraphrases with page numbers and a MLA correct Works Cited page. Regardless of reading strategy you employ, make sure you will be able to either return to the text for quotations or paraphrases or that you have selected passages and noted page numbers in advance. I am NOT grading your annotations; you annotate to help yourself later. You will NOT have to bring your pre-course reading books to class.

## ANNOTATION BASICS

Annotating means underlining, commenting, questioning, bracketing, joining with arrows, and numbering. Annotating directly on the text page is fundamental before you can do anything with the selection/book. Obviously, you can only undertake direct annotation if you purchase the books. Otherwise, you must use sticky notes.

Research shows that it doesn't matter exactly what, how, or how much you annotate but *that* you annotate. The action of marking as you read increases your chances to read closely. Nonetheless, because you will use these books to fulfill specific tasks on the paper and project, the information below will help guide your annotating. Please understand: I am not grading your annotating. Annotation helps you prepare for more involved analysis, synthesis, and evaluation to come. If you choose not to annotate (a poor choice that shows that you may not actually want to pursue a college-level English course yet), you will struggle to determine necessary support when undertaking the project and paper.

## ANNOTATE TO PREPARE FOR THE PROJECT AND PAPER

- ★ Recognize that texts often embody historical and cultural assumptions, values, and attitudes that differ from your own. Be aware of these differences. Because texts often challenge readers' attitudes, positions on current issues, and both consciously and unconsciously held beliefs, feelings such as anxiety, irritation, frustration, vulnerability, shame, wariness, and alertness indicate that you are reacting based on personal or family values, religious beliefs, racial or ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation, social class, or regional experience.
1. As you read,
    - identify places that offer you new information, claims, or evidence,
    - note how the author is using experience, knowledge, or connections to make a point or deliver information,
    - register your reactions: emotional, ethical (right/wrong), and logical (Does this make sense?).
  2. What did the author do to create that feeling/reaction? Mark the words, details, methods of phrasing, inclusion/exclusion of information that make you react and mark evidence: facts, statistics, personal accounts, others' accounts, expert statements/accounts, etc. that the author uses to prove his/her point.
  3. Once you have finished the book, end with a final analysis **AND** personal reflection of the book's entirety. 1) How did the author's writing connect you to the topic? 2) What does the author do that helps you understand what he/she wants you to do or think now that you have finished the book?

## PURCHASE REQUIREMENT

**Purchase** (you will read and refer to this frequently for class) *The Elements of Style, 4th edition* by Strunk and White. Barnes and Noble (store and online) and Amazon.com usually stock plenty *until* the school year begins.

**To ease your workload during the semester**, you may want to read the whole book (it's tiny) prior to the course's first day. Then during the course when you receive the assignments for each portion, you can concentrate on just your annotations.

**From Amazon:** [https://www.amazon.com/Elements-Style-Fourth-William-trunk/dp/020530902X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1490798681&sr=8-1&keywords=elements+of+style+strunk+and+white](https://www.amazon.com/Elements-Style-Fourth-William-trunk/dp/020530902X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1490798681&sr=8-1&keywords=elements+of+style+strunk+and+white)

**From Barnes & Noble:** <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-elements-of-style-william-strunk/1116794279?ean=9780205309023>

## PURCHASE SUGGESTION

**You may want to purchase** *The MLA Handbook 8<sup>th</sup> edition*, a reference manual that you will use in college as well. You *can* check one out for the semester, but if you buy your own copy, you can write in it rather than use stickies.

**From Amazon:** [https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Modern-Language-Association-America/dp/1603292624/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1490798312&sr=8-1&keywords=mla+handbook+8th+edition+2016](https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Modern-Language-Association-America/dp/1603292624/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1490798312&sr=8-1&keywords=mla+handbook+8th+edition+2016)

**From Barnes & Noble:** <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/mla-handbook-the-modern-language-association-of-america/1124337671?ean=9781603292627>

**From MLA:** <https://www.mla.org/Publications/Bookstore/Nonseries/MLA-Handbook-Eighth-Edition>