

2019-2020  
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. 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**: **one** book from the Quality Writing Reveals Passion, Pluck, and Power Choices **and one** book from the Science's Rhetoric Advances the Human Condition Choices. You must find evidence from these books for your first process paper and first project, so annotate per the directions on the back.

### QUALITY WRITING REVEALS PASSION, PLUCK, AND POWER

- *Alix and Nicky: The Passion of the Last Tsar and Tsarina* by Virginia Rounding
- *The Artist, The Philosopher, and the Warrior: Da Vinci, Machiavelli, and Borgia ... World They Shaped* by P. Strathern
- *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and D. Abrams
- *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild* by Lawrence Antony
- *Enemies: A History of the FBI* by Tim Weiner
- *Fortune's Children: The Fall of the House of Vanderbilt* by Arthur T. Vanderbilt
- *Gandhi and Churchill: The Epic Rivalry that Destroyed an Empire and Forged our Age* by Arthur Herman
- *Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy: The Many Faces of Anonymous* by Gabrielle Coleman
- *The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall* by C. Hibbert
- *Leadership in Turbulent Times* by Doris K. Goodwin
- *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathan Philbrick
- *Mussolini and the Pope: The Secret History of Pius XI and the Rise of Fascism in Europe* by David I. Kertzer
- *The Restless Wave: Good Times, Just Causes, Great Fights, and Other Appreciations* by John McCain
- *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
- *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* — Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *Through a Window: My Thirty Years with the Chimpanzees of Gombe* by Jan Goodall
- *The Tigress of Forlì: Renaissance Italy's Most Courageous and Notorious Countess, Caterina...De Medici* by Elizabeth Lev
- *Unbowed: A Memoir* by Wangari Maathai
- *The Unquiet American: Richard Holbrooke in the World* by D. Chollet and S. Power
- *The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies*

### SCIENCE'S RHETORIC ADVANCES THE HUMAN CONDITION

- *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *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 Matthew Ridley
- *Survival of the Sickest: A Medical Maverick Discovers Why We Need Disease* by Dr. Sharon Moalem
- *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman
- *Voices in the Ocean: A Journey into the Wild and Haunting World of Dolphins* by Susan Casey
- *The World without Us* by Alan Weisman
- *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body* by Neil Shubin

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE/COMPOSITION

## 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?keywords=mla+handbook&qid=1558194802&s=gateway&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Modern-Language-Association-America/dp/1603292624/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=mla+handbook&qid=1558194802&s=gateway&sr=8-1)

**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>