

5 June 2013

Dear Prospective AP English Language and Composition Student,

In preparation for the literary and document-based reading and analysis we will be doing, you need to focus some energy on toning and tightening the intellectual apparatus on which you will rely next school year. With that end in mind, please complete the following assignments over the summer **for day 1 of school**:

- *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest: minimum 3 entries.
- Nonfiction book and blog

Your choice to challenge yourself--to take the more arduous academic route--is a pledge to your intellectual growth that colleges recognize and reward. We look forward to learning with and from you. **Please be sure your parents review the assignments and that they and you understand you are committing to completing this summer assignment and to taking the AP exam in May of 2014. Signal your agreement by signing below and returning the slip to your current English teacher, or by accessing the forms section of Mrs. Savella's webpage (or click the link on the Summer Reading page) and electronically signing by June 25, 2013.**

Yours in anticipation,

Mr. Leaf and Mrs. Savella

P.S. If you win the *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest, you will earn automatic extra credit for first quarter.

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Student Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

We understand that the summer reading assignment is due the first day of school in September and that our child is committing to sit for the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

## AP Language and Composition: 2013 Summer Reading

1. See the attached rule sheet for the *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest. You are required to

- complete and submit 3 entries on the NYTimes.org site (<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/18/the-fourth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest/> or link available on Mrs. Savella's website),
- print these to hand in on September 3.
- space out entries by 2 weeks for full credit (in other words, this isn't a last-minute assignment; spend time browsing the news and other sections of the online paper before choosing your article).
- Note: The *New York Times* is available on Schroeder's library web site if you need a digital edition.



2. Choose 1 of the following nonfiction books. Sign onto our classes' blog site at [www.schroederaplang.blogspot.com](http://www.schroederaplang.blogspot.com), and respond to 3 prompts that will be posted there on July 15, August 1, and August 15. Each book will have its own thread and prompt. Your response is due within 5 days of each prompt posting (i.e., July 20, August 5, August 20).

- o ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*** by Michelle Alexander
- o ***Outliers*** by Malcolm Gladwell
- o ***Technopoly*** by Neil Postman
- o ***A Walk in the Woods*** by Bill Bryson

☐ **These books are available from Barnes and Noble and at many online sites.**

### Summer Non-Fiction Blog Rubric

Each response will be worth *40 points* and will be graded according to the following criteria:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Responses are at least 250 words in length of clear, concise, well edited prose
- \_\_\_\_\_ Responses are thoughtful, thorough, and address the prompt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Responses refer to text in elaborating response to prompt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Responses refer to other students' responses to the prompt or to other students' earlier blog observations.

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_/120

**Any questions? Contact**

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