

12AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Language and Composition. I look forward to an exciting year of scholarship, collaboration, and intellectual discovery. In the meantime, please complete the following required tasks over the summer to keep you sharp and to allow us to hit the ground running when we meet in September. Please have all assignments completed and ready to submit by the first day of school. Don't hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns at: j.wasserman@wi.k12.ny.us.

Assignment #1: Course Prep

In order to get acquainted with the course and reading expectations, please carefully read and annotate the following two articles.

“What Do Students Need to Know About Rhetoric” by Hepzibah Roskelly

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/repository/ap06_englang_roskelly_50098.pdf

“Interrogating Texts” by Susan Gilroy

http://guides.library.harvard.edu/ld.php?content_id=12548868

Assignment #2: Summer Vocabulary

You are responsible for all of the terms on the attached sheet. You are to create a set of index cards for yourself that includes the definition of each, a summary in your own words of each, and several examples of each. Please be prepared for a quiz on these terms when we meet, but more importantly, aim to identify them in context as you complete your reading assignments. These terms, in great part, will serve as the foundation of our stylistic analysis over the course of the year.

Assignment #3: Read a Book

Please read at least one of the following books over the summer:

- *Into the Wild*- Jon Krakauer
- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*- Stephen King
- As you read, please annotate meaningfully in order to equip yourself with fodder for rhetorical analysis. Keep track of at least three stylistically compelling moments you would like to revisit in class discussion. Please refer to the Summer Vocabulary often and try to identify the elements in the context of the writing you have chosen.
- Complete a SOAPStone (see attached) for your chosen book. Please go beyond the obvious and think critically and analytically about your responses to each of the elements. Attached is a sample SOAPStone for you to consult.

Summer Vocabulary

1. allusion
2. ambiguous
3. analogy
4. anaphora
5. anecdote
6. antimetabole
7. antithesis
8. aphorism
9. appeals
10. argument
11. asyndeton
12. chiasmus
13. connotation
14. counterargument
15. deductive reasoning
16. denotation
17. diction
18. ellipsis
19. ethos
20. euphemism
21. irony
22. fallacy
23. inductive reasoning
24. isocolon
25. juxtaposition
26. logos
27. parallel structure
28. paradox
29. pathos
30. polysyndeton
31. repetition
32. rhetorical questions
33. rhetorical situation
34. rhetorical triangle
35. sarcasm
36. satire
37. syllogism
38. syntax
39. synthesis
40. tone

SOAPSTone

S- Who is the Speaker?

What do you observe about the speaker's voice? Does this voice belong to the writer him/herself? How does the writer develop the personality/character/credibility of the speaker or narrator? How does the speaker influence the overall meaning of the text? What assumptions can you make about the speaker (e.g. age, gender, emotional state, etc.)? What is the speaker's point of view?

O- What is the Occasion?

What context and circumstances prompted the writing? Writers are influenced by the larger occasion—an environment of ideas, attitudes, and emotion that swirl around a broad issue—as well as the immediate occasion—an event or situation that catches the writer's attention and triggers a response. Think about: What is the setting? What is the intended emotional effect? What else was going on in the world when the author was writing?

A- Who is the audience?

To whom is this piece directed? It may be one person or a specific group.

P- What is the Purpose?

What did the author want to achieve in writing this piece? What is the reason behind the text?

What is the writer's message and how does he/she convey it?

S- What is the Subject?

What is the topic of the piece? What is the main idea?

Tone- What is the Tone?

What is the attitude of the author toward his/her subject and how do diction, syntax, figurative language, and imagery contribute to this tone? Aim for precision in your tone words. Does the speaker seem sarcastic, aggressive, wistful, pessimistic, hopeful, bitter, reflective, skeptical, etc.?

SOAPSTONE Sample

Speaker:

American historian, Ronald C. White, has authored three acclaimed biographies on Abraham Lincoln, two of which focus primarily on Lincoln's rhetoric in speeches. He attended seminary at Princeton, where he subsequently earned his PhD; his religious background serves as a lens through which he sometimes assesses Lincoln's moral ground and diction.

Occasion:

For *The Eloquent President*, published in 2005, White dug into Lincoln's speeches in an attempt to articulate what about their essence and genius has resonated with Americans for over a century. At this time, George W. Bush was sworn into his second term as president, after having navigated through 9/11 and the primary years of America's most recent war, the War on Terror. Similar to those in the Civil War era, Americans sought comfort and understanding in the rhetoric of the president as we marched forth in war.

Audience:

White writes for a wide audience--mostly anyone who has been moved by Lincoln's words and the grace with which he led America through one of its most tumultuous eras; he also writes for those who value the power of the word and the art of rhetorical persuasion.

Purpose:

In the prologue, White reveals that he aimed to move from "awe to understanding" of Lincoln's rhetoric by delving into the speeches individually while charting their development in context with one another--pearls in a necklace as he describes them. His approach serves to illuminate Lincoln's impossibly fraught combination of eloquence and simplicity that echo as testaments to the American experience and spirit.

Subject:

The book covers, chronologically, Lincoln's speeches from the 1861 Farewell Address at Springfield, which he delivered to his friends and neighbors as he left Illinois for his first inauguration, through his 1865 Second Inaugural Address. He frames the speeches with the context necessary to appreciate his messages with greater depth and understanding, and frequently provides commentary on his development as a writer, the sources from which he drew, and his writing process.

Tone:

Overall, White's tone embodies reverence and appreciation for Lincoln's work and words. His rhetorical analysis is objective and critical and bolstered by accounts of Lincoln's closest advisors.

White, Ronald C. *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words*. New York, Random House, January 2005.