

Ferrari

2018 Summer Work

Students planning on taking AP Language and Composition during their junior year are required to complete summer work in preparation for the course. AP Language and Composition studies the methods writers employ in constructing their work and challenges students to employ these same techniques in developing their own writing styles. The course relies on American writers and themes, and focuses more on nonfiction works than the traditional literature course. Students must complete and submit all summer work in order to be eligible for “A” status at the conclusion of the first semester.

I Critical Reading and Annotation:

- Using the guidelines provided in the Harvard “Interrogating Texts” handout, read and annotate *The Last Cowboys: A Pioneer Family in the New West* by John Branch, **OR** *Nomadland: Surviving America in the 21st Century* by Jessica Bruder, **OR** *The Devil’s Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea, **AND** *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger thoroughly. Your annotations serve as your dialogue with the text. You must read hard-copies of these texts.

The documentarian and historian Ken Burns argues that his work as a filmmaker has revealed two dominant themes of the American experience: race and space—how the issues of race relations in the United States and the inherent desire to explore and extend the physical boundaries of the nation have always shaped the direction and identity of its people, and that these two forces continue to do so.

For our purposes, steps 1-4 of “Interrogating Texts” serve as annotation. On the due date, you will submit your annotated texts as well as a one-page (typed) discussion of steps 5 & 6. Your one-page may cover both texts.

“Interrogating Texts”: <https://guides.library.harvard.edu/sixreadinghabits>

II Public Discourse and the American Experience Scrapbook

Over the course of the school year we will return to three thematic concepts with regularity:

- **American Identity:** asking the question of what it means to be an American and exploring the potential defining characteristics of this idea.
- **American Voice:** recognizing the people (writers, citizens, politicians, etc.) who provide a voice for those who, for whatever reason, cannot speak for themselves or who are not heard.
- **American Dream:** exploring and challenging the belief that the United States, both literally and figuratively, offers something to its inhabitants that is unique, uplifting, and prosperous for those who seek it.

Create a scrapbook that contains a combination of 15 newspaper and/or magazine articles published between now and September 3 (Labor Day) that in some way or another connect to one of the above concepts (label as such). Challenge yourself to read diverse commentary that speaks to issues of the day that have value to the American citizenry. Feel free to include personal photos of your own American experience this summer to enhance your scrapbook

(OVER)

III Critical Reading Soundtrack

- Based on your scrapbook reading selections, create a playlist that serves as a soundtrack for the issues, themes, and concepts of your summer work. All of your song selections must be composed by AMERICAN writers. Your playlist must include the following:
 - 2 “classic rock” songs: one pre-1980 and one post-1980
 - 2 urban songs (hip-hop/rap): one pre-1990 and one post-1990
 - 2 country western songs: one pre-1990 and one post-1990
 - 2 jazz songs: one pre-1970 and one post-1970
 - 2 songs from a Broadway musical soundtrack: one pre-1980 and one post-1980
 - 1 Gospel song from any era
 - 1 Blues song pre-1960
 - 3 songs of your choosing
 - **Produce this playlist** by burning a CD, creating a Spotify collection, downloading your music on thumb-drive, etc.

Vocabulary Note: Your ability to increase your vocabulary will impact your reading, writing, and test taking skills (especially in terms of SAT/ACT/AP exams). Attentive, critical reading is the most effective method of increasing vocabulary so challenge yourself to identify, define, and incorporate elevated vocabulary from your reading this summer.

Traditionally, Late Work is Not Accepted