

Dear Students,

Thank you for signing up to take AP English Language and Composition. In an effort to prepare you for the class, you will complete a summer reading assignment designed to inspire you to begin thinking about reading and writing in a different way.

This summer, please read both of the books listed below:

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

You will complete writing tasks for each of the works, and you will upload your work to Turn It In.com by 11:59pm on Monday, August 10th (in two separate submissions).

Book 1: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

Have you ever wondered: “Did the author mean to do that?” King’s book, which is subtitled *A Memoir of the Craft*, provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction to this book, “What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it’s done” (King xv). In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. (This analysis is a major component of the work we will do in AP Language.) The book is divided into four sections: *C.V.*, *Toolbox*, *On Writing*, and *On Living: A Postscript*. Your assignments will, likewise, be divided into four sections. **You should organize the four assignments into one complete document.** For each task below, please include proper MLA citations for the passages discussed.

Task # 1: C.V.

Format: Paragraph(s) with three textual references woven throughout.

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e., imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associate with fictional pieces.

Identify three passages in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. **Explain the elements/techniques** he uses and why they are effective.

Task # 2: Toolbox

Format: Two (2) lists (List 1: “7 Rules from King” with page numbers; List 2: “7 Rules from Life”)

Create a writer’s toolbox for yourself. Identify **7 rules of writing** King discusses (include the page number) that you think are important or interesting. Then, add an **additional 7 rules of writing** which you have either practiced or been taught throughout your school career (example: don’t begin a sentence with “and”). In class, we will discuss the merit of these various “rules.” You might want to investigate some of the sources provided in the text to help you find some additional “rules.”

Task # 3: On Writing

Format: Paragraph(s)

How does King feel about writing? How do you know? Choose **three key passages from this section in which King defines writing**, either directly or figuratively. In your own words, restate King's point about writing in the passage and why you think this point is interesting or important.

Task # 4: On Living: A Postscript

Format: Paragraph(s); you may use "I" or "me" in this task, but please refrain from referring to yourself in all other tasks.

This task does not pertain to just this section of the book. Rather, **explain your opinion of King as both a writer and a person.** Would you consider reading one of his books now, for example? (If you have read his books prior to this assignment, has your opinion of the author changed? If so, how?) **What do you think King's purpose was in writing this book?** Support your answers to both prompts with evidence from the text.

Book 2: *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

Please write one essay answering the following prompt:

Analyze a choice made by Julia Alvarez that contributes to her novel *In the Time of the Butterflies*. Essentially, identify a particular concept and the effect this has on the novel/reader.

This is a literary analysis. Some potential topics include: setting (time, region, culture), characters, structure, diction, symbolism, imagery, figurative language, dialogue, plot, etc...

Example thesis statements:

(The author's) use of water symbolism throughout the novel contributes to the emerging themes (of _____?) in the text.

The author uses shifts in time in order to...

The author's use of cultural elements shows the impact of region on plot and characterization in the novel.

PLEASE NOTE—It may be tempting to summarize these stories in your essay. **Don't.** I have read the texts and am familiar with their content; since I am your audience, you will need to keep that in mind. I am more interested in hearing your argument—make a claim and then support it with specifics from the text.

It is expected that you will use proper grammar and spelling, as well as appropriate examples and direct textual evidence (with citations) to support your assertions. Before submitting a final copy of the work, please check it against the attached rubric.

Recommended length: 2.5-3 pages.

Friendly reminders for your essay:

- MLA Format
- Thesis statement/main argument
- Evidence from the text/properly-cited quotations
- Enhanced word choice
- Avoidance of personal pronouns (“I” and “me”) is preferred
- Thoroughly edited
- Be prepared to discuss this work with the teacher and classmates upon arrival to school in September
- Enjoy reading!

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Over the summer, you will need to log into turnitin.com and register for the summer reading assignment class. The class information is as follows:

- a. **Class Name: AP Lang Summer Reading 2020**
- b. **Class ID: 24878840**
- c. **Enrollment Key: apling**

Remember to upload work by 11:59pm on Monday, August 10th!

The rubric for the essay is attached. All summer reading information will also be available on my web page and on the district page. I look forward to working with each of you and discussing these texts in the fall! Please e-mail me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Barry

mary.barry@ssdcougars.org

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Focus	Sharp, distinct controlling point made with evident awareness of task.	Apparent point made with sufficient awareness of task.	No apparent point made, but evidence of the topic exists.	Minimal evidence exists regarding the prompt.	No evidence exists regarding the prompt.
Content	Substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content demonstrating strong development and sophisticated ideas. Quotations included that effectively support the writer's position.	Sufficiently developed content with adequate elaboration or explanation. Quotations included that adequately support the writer's position.	Limited content with inadequate elaboration or explanation. Quotations included that minimally support the writer's position.	Superficial and/or minimal content. Quotations included that fail to support the writer's position or no quotations included.	No essay submitted.
Organization	Sophisticated arrangement of content with evident and/or subtle transitions	Functional arrangement of content that sustains a logical order with some evidence of transitions.	Confused or inconsistent arrangement of content with or without attempts at transition.	Minimal control of content arrangement	No essay submitted.
Style	Precise, illustrative use of variety of words and sentence structures to create consistent writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience.	Generic use of variety of words and sentence structures that may or may not create writer's voice and tone appropriate to audience.	Limited word choice and control of sentence structures that inhibit voice and tone	Minimal variety in word choice and minimal control of sentence structures.	No essay submitted.
Conventions	Evident control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation. MLA format.	Sufficient control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation.	Limited control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation.	Minimal control of grammar, mechanics, spelling, usage and sentence formation.	No essay submitted.