

**Dear AP Language Student:**

Welcome to the challenge of AP Language and Composition! The course will give you the opportunity to develop college level reading and writing abilities while attending high school. AP Language can replace your first year composition course, one that typically focuses on nonfiction and rhetorical strategies a writer employs to address a particular audience on a particular subject.

In order to prepare you for this class, each student is required to complete a summer reading assignment. Each student gets to select his or her book from the options provided, and it is expected that each student will purchase his or her own copy of that book. (If purchasing the book creates a hardship for you or your family, please see either Mrs. Atterberry, Mrs. McGuinness, or Mrs. Schonewill for assistance.) It will be important to complete a careful reading of the book while marking the text and taking notes. These books will be used as we begin the school year, and it will be imperative that you come with the book read.

**Reading Options:**

All the books we have selected are argumentative in nature, but each focuses on a different topic. We recommend students look over the options and make their selections early so as to provide ample time to complete the reading and writing assignments. Students may want to look at the synopsis and reviews of the books on Amazon or Barnes and Noble in order to help them select.

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Stiff by Mary Roach

The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan

Isaac's Storm by Eric Larson

**IMPORTANT TIPS TO CONSIDER:**

- Do quality work, and do your own work.
- Read all the assignment before you begin selecting and reading your book.
- Select your book and start reading early.
- Expect this to be academic reading; this book will not be your typical "summer" reading. It is not an action-packed thriller or lovely romance.
- Buy your own copy of the book and bring it with you to class on the first day. Highlight and make notes in the book as you read.
- Talk to each other about the book as you read during the summer.
- Pay attention to the author's word choice, sentence structure and use of rhetorical strategies.
- Think about possible research topics that may stem from your reading.
- Be prepared to use this on the first day of class. It will be blaringly obvious if you have not read the book.

If you have questions, stop by and see one of us before the end of school. If a question arises over the summer, contact one of us via email. We'll be glad to answer your questions. We look forward to meeting and working with you next fall. Mrs. Atterberry ([heather.atterberry@ksd.org](mailto:heather.atterberry@ksd.org)), Mrs. McGuinness ([kathy.mcguinness@ksd.org](mailto:kathy.mcguinness@ksd.org)), and Mrs. Schonewill ([renae.schonewill@ksd.org](mailto:renae.schonewill@ksd.org))