



Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am pleased that your student has enrolled in AP Language and Composition for the 2023-24 school year. AP Language and Composition is a rigorous college level course focusing on rhetorical analysis and argumentative writing. We also read nonfiction texts such as speeches, narrative nonfiction, nonfiction books, and current events articles. Since students of AP Language and Composition should consider themselves “readers,” it’s important that they focus their reading in preparation for this course. For this reason, I recommend the following:

1. AP Language and Composition students should be consumers of diverse, credible, established news media, including a variety of physical or online national or global news sources. I recommend diverse sources; for example, *The Wall Street Journal* (conservative leaning), *The New York Times* (liberal leaning), and *BBC News* (neutral). Subscribing to free digital news apps or tuning in to quality broadcast news programming could provide news from multiple sources in convenient, cost-free formats. This is best started in the summer months if students don’t already follow the news. To support students, engage them in discussions about current events, or ask them what they’ve been following in the news.
2. During the school year, students will be required to read THREE non-fiction books OUTSIDE of class for this course, one for each of the first three quarters. **To get a head start** on this reading, I am providing the non-fiction reading list that students must use to select the books they will read. This list has been carefully curated to include books that support the level of rigor in style and content appropriate for AP Language and Composition. It is important that students choose from this list if they decide to work ahead. The list is [linked here](#). Many of the titles are available in local libraries. You may choose to purchase new or used copies if you prefer.

During the year, I will require students to use the following details from their reading for a follow-up assignment for their outside reading:

1. Title and Author
2. Author’s Message/Thesis
3. Author’s Purpose
4. Two key quotes/passages
5. One rhetorical device and its effect
6. Notes about relevant imagery

This reading is NOT REQUIRED SUMMER READING, but, rather, a chance to get outside reading completed before the school year begins. If students wish, they may read all three required books over the summer. **The related assignments will count as assessment grades.** This assignment is posted ONLINE on the NPHS website under “Academic/Course Information.” Contact Mrs. Barden at kbarden@npusc.k12.in.us with any questions.

Mrs. Kristen Barden