

Hillgrove High School English Department
Honors 9th Literature, Honors World Literature, and Honors American Lit
Summer Reading 2023-2024

On the first day of school, most students expect their teacher to tell them what they will be learning for the year. Honors 9th Lit, Honors World Lit, and Honors American Lit are rigorous, performance-based, interactive courses where emphasis is placed on the development of critical and analytical thinking skills through classroom discussion of texts, writing, and presenting.

Over the last few years, we have seen significant growth in our students who have been actively participating in daily independent reading in their English classes. As we approach this summer, maintaining that growth by continuing to read throughout the summer is vital to continued student achievement in their upcoming classes.

The assignment this summer is simply this: **READ**.

Use the chart below to guide your choices and adhere to criteria (based on course) for your book choices.

Honors 9th Lit	Honors World Lit		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The book you choose should focus on a “coming of age” theme. (<i>“coming of age” is a commonly used term to describe the transition from childhood to adulthood.</i>) 2. The book you choose should not be one that was read/assigned in middle school. It should be age appropriate. 3. The book you choose should not be one that has been made into a movie or television series. 4. The book you choose will be your first Book Talk presentation/assignment in the class. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The book you choose should focus on a community or culture that you are not a part of. 2. The book you choose should not be one that was read/assigned in middle school. It should be age appropriate. 3. The book you choose should not be one that has been made into a movie or television series. 4. The book you choose will be your first Book Talk presentation/assignment in the class. 		
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“What our students read in school is important; what they read the rest of their lives is more important”
(Gallagher, 2009)

“...we are launching readers for life – into life – and...although reading more will have an important impact on SAT and ACT scores and on preparing students for the volume of reading in college; it also enlarges their worldview and gives them a greater understanding of the complexities of arguments so often truncated on the news” (Kittle, 2013)

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AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading 2023-2024

On the first day of school, most students expect their teacher to tell them what they will be learning for the year. According to College Board, the AP Language and Composition course centers around three skills: [the] development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. What does that mean?

Well, for starters it means that we will teach you why you should ignore that really persuasive video on YouTube. We will also teach you why it was so persuasive in the first place. We will help you realize why, despite the logical and rhetorical fallacies, that political ad by the other side seems to fool so many people. We will help you understand why that author or speaker you so admire seemed to know exactly the right word or phrase to inspire YOU to act.

We will, hopefully, teach you how to use this knowledge, to make good arguments, and recognize bad ones. To begin this process, our summer reading assignment will be a sort of good global citizen boot camp. You will complete a current events project that will require you to read and respond to ONE news article per week for 8 weeks. You will summarize the news, share your own views on the news, and do an analysis of the article you have read in a weekly assignment. This is designed to help you think about what is going on in the world today, and, also, how to help you listen to and respond to ideas or arguments that challenge your own world view.

Current Events Journal

Before you begin reading and crafting your responses, read the following articles about bias and arguments.

[How to Spot Media Bias](#)

[8 Ways To Practice the Art of Productive Disagreement](#)

[The Psychology of Bias](#)

After reading the information above, you will keep a current events journal. You will need 8 total entries. For each entry, read 1 article and write a brief reflection.

The Article

Read a news article. The article should meet one of the following three criteria:

- A) It should be an opinion piece.
- B) Its author should demonstrate a clear bias for or against the topic
- C) The article deals with an issue or culture that you are unfamiliar with.

The news article you read must be current. Current here means no more than 2 weeks old.

Written Requirement

Each entry in your journal should include the following:

- **Header:** Title of Article, Author, Date, Source
- **Summary** (50-word minimum)
- Write a summary of the article. Try to understand the entirety of the article and provide a synopsis in your own words. Avoid using the same phrasing and same presentation of facts. Use indirect quotes as needed.
- **Analysis**
- Provide an analysis of the authorial choices: writing style, voice, headline, order/structure, word choices and their connotations. Be specific and focused; you don't need to analyze everything. Just choose one thing to closely analyze and discuss how it shows the bias of the author.
- **Personal Response** (100-word minimum)
- What is your own personal takeaway from the news article? What new insights did you glean from reading the article? How did this article reveal something to you about your bias? What is your position on the topic?
- At the beginning of the semester, you will turn your journal in. You will submit the journal with your written reflection for a major grade. You may turn in a hard copy or a digital copy.

Checklist

Each of the 8 articles that you read must come from a different source. You must also choose articles in different subject areas. Use the checklist below to make sure that you are covering each of the requirements. You can fulfill these requirements in any order, but you must make sure that you check off 8 boxes by the end of the 10-week cycle.

Date	LIST OF SUBJECTS	Date	LIST OF SOURCES
	Sports		
	Environment		
	Fashion		
	Science/Technology		
	Business		
	Literature/Language		
	Performing Arts		
	Human Interest		
	Politics/Government (International)		
	Politics/Government (National)		

List of Recommended News Sources

The New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Vogue, Rolling Stone, The Economist, Christian Science Monitor, Time Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, National Geographic, Science, Teen Vogue, AJC, MDJ, or any other major metropolitan newspaper or nationally known magazine.

Other sources are acceptable, but they should be a reputable source. Avoid clickbait articles.

This link takes you to the media bias pyramid. You may use any source listed except those in the red rectangle at the base.

[Media Bias Chart](#)

Reflection (250 words minimum)

Write a meaningful reflection in which you examine what you learned from reading the news. In your reflection you may consider the following questions:

- *What did you learn about the world or society or the current state of affairs from reading the news?*
- *What did you learn about the importance or relevance of journalism in the world?*
- *Is it difficult to discern truth from fact?*
- *Are there matters of significant importance that need more attention?*
- *Is there something you gained a deeper understanding of?*
- *Is there something you would like to know more about?*

In your reflection, you must reference/cite a minimum of 3 articles in your portfolio to support your claims.

**Adapted from Aaron Gillego*

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On the first day of school, most students expect their teacher to tell them what they will be learning for the year. According to College Board, the AP Literature and Composition course centers around three skills: "...reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods." We will engage in reading closely and critically to "deepen [your] understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure." What does that mean? It means we will explore literature from a variety of genres, time periods, cultures, and authors. We want you "...to develop an appreciation of ways literature reflects and comments on a range of experiences, institutions, and social structures" (AP English Literature and Composition Course Description).

Being comfortable with poetry is one of the important foundational skills for this course. Because you may not be there yet, we want you to spend some time this summer reading poetry and practicing what it means to read it closely and critically, but also simply enjoy it and appreciate it.

Poetry Foundation Poem of the Day

Assignment -- Poetry Foundation features a poem each day from a diverse list of present and past poems. Choose 3 poems from any dates over the summer and create one page of notes for each. The notes should focus on some initial thoughts based on the following elements:

- Identify main subjects/thematic concepts for each poem (Use 50 Common Thematic Concepts in Literature list below the assignment)
- Write brief summary of poem
- Note lines you like (with brief explanation of why)
- Note lines that give you trouble (with brief explanation of why)
- Write several sentences of analysis as you believe analysis of a poem should be written. (Ideas: Look for parts that are interrelated. Find the individual aspects of the poem that give it meaning.)

[Here](#) is a good example of a complex analysis of a popular middle school poem. A more sophisticated analysis of an e.e. Cummings poem can be found [here](#).

*Remember that at the beginning of the course, this assignment will be submitted digitally via Office 365 tools and www.turnitin.com – so this analysis should be your work alone and not something influenced or discovered online or via other sources.

Why it is important -- Thoughtful readers write to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately by selecting apt and specific evidence, organizing the evidence into broader ideas, and conveying the impact of its meaning. These tasks align directly with the purpose and objectives of AP Literature and Composition.

*This course aligns to an introductory college-level literature and writing curriculum.