

To access these instructions, a list of links to sources and to download a reading log template, go to <http://blogs.ksbe.edu/difontai/ap-summer-reading-2011/>. (This website will not be viewable until AFTER May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.)

## **AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (GRADE 11) SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT** Diana Fontaine, Instructor

### **Overview**

Welcome to AP 11! This class provides students with a rich college-level experience and carries with it the goal to help students “function as literate, responsible citizens in their lives outside the walls of academia” (College Board). So what is your kuleana in fulfilling this expectation?

1) Literacy: You must read, and read a lot. Period.

You probably already do, and that’s good. Being a critical reader is even more important. You must be able to distinguish fact from opinion; to be able to understand not only the black and white of an issue, but the shades of grey as well; to be able to acknowledge peoples’ differing opinions and perspectives and to have respect for those opinions; to be able to see how those perspectives are shaped by forces (history, government, religion, values) we cannot always understand without studying. If you are in the dark about what’s going on in the world, you **do not** have a voice in helping to shape it.

2) Responsibility: It’s a cliché, but it’s true: you are the future.

IF you are going to successfully compete in a global future, you have to know about the globe by studying a range of issues that concern your local, national, and global communities. IF you want to have a good future, you must be able to offer informed solutions and compromises for this increasingly chaotic world, ones that will make your world a better place.

What you can do over the summer that will help you on your way to becoming a more literate, responsible citizen is to read and respond to media—specifically newspapers and newsmagazines that are available online. Doing so will provide you with a reading experience that is free (no book to buy), interesting (you choose what you want to read-- within certain guidelines of course), and timely (current new stories). The reading requirement amounts to a MINIMUM of ONE news story PER DAY for SEVEN WEEKS (7x7=49 readings ☺). You will keep track of your reading by filling out a weekly log sheet of your reading selections, then at the end of each week, after you’ve read at least seven articles and opinions/editorials, you will write a one-page reflection, one-page minimum. (Details on next page.)

### **How To Choose Your Reading Selections**

**INTEREST:** Read what you are interested in. Keep in mind that the goal of this assignment is to keep you abreast of issues and topics that concern our communities. So, if you like pop culture and come across an article titled “Lady Gaga Falls Off Stage, Breaks Leg,” you should probably skip it in favor of an article titled “Lady Gaga’s Meat Dress Highlights Corruption in Beef Industry.” If you want to read a few sports stories, choose an opinion piece about Kobe Bryant’s use of a gay slur, not an article that reports an NFL team’s win over another. Make wise choices: cultivate your inner (or outer) intellectual.

**VARIETY:** Each week you should read both articles and op/eds (Opinions/Editorials) on a variety of topics and on a variety of categories and from a variety of sources (all listed below).

**Topics** Choose a variety of topics. Do not do all sports, or all on Bin Laden’s death. **Choose two or more topics per week.** Topics can include (but are not limited to) the following:

- |              |              |                   |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| -politics    | -education   | -culture/the arts |
| -pop culture | -economics   | -gender           |
| -sports      | -environment | -health           |
| -science     | -business    | -technology       |

**Categories:** Sources should vary by category as well. Each week read from these three categories:



- 1) After reading two or more op/eds covering the same event or issue, choose the most compelling and explain why the author's argument was the most convincing.
- 2) Respond to an opinion offered in an editorial you read to which you have a strong reaction.
- 3) Choose an article that covers an issue or event of importance for our local, national, or international community. Discuss the personal, social, political, or economical ramifications of the issue or event.
- 4) Read the *comments posted* on an article or op/ed and respond to one or more of them with your observations or opinions.
- 5) Write about the interesting stylistic choices an author has made in an op/ed to convey a purpose or move the audience.
- 6) After reading an article about an event/issue, and then reading one or more op/eds that respond to that event, write a reflection on something interesting you noticed between the report and the opinion.
- 7) After reading two or more articles covering the same event or issue, write about how the same event is perceived differently by different sources/countries.
- 8) Respond to an opinion with which you disagree, in part or in whole. Offer your critique and possible solutions or compromises.
- 9) After reading an article or op/ed on a particular issue or event one week, and reading about the same issue or event another subsequent week, write about something interesting you noticed as the event/issue continued to unfold.

You can see, by the above suggestions, that you will be expected to write THOUGHTFUL reflections. They should not be summaries of what you've read. Variety is key—do not respond in the same way to all seven reflections. Each reflection should be a **minimum of one page**-- word-processed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times/TNR font. When you are ready to submit the assignment, make sure to save all seven reflections, each with an identifying title (i.e. Week One Reflection), on ONE document.

### **Expectations and Due Dates**

- 1) This is an independent reading/writing assignment. Choose your own readings and record your own logs. Please do not collaborate with another student.
- 2) Word-process your reflections and logs. You should use the Reading Log Template to record your entries. To download this template, and to view an example reading log with detailed explanations, go to <http://blogs.ksbe.edu/difontai/ap-summer-reading-2011/>. (This website will not be viewable until AFTER May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.)
- 3) You will need to read for seven weeks (minimum of seven articles and op/eds per week for a MINIMUM of 49 readings.) Your summer break is ten weeks long. Choose seven of those weeks to do your summer reading assignment. (Those seven weeks do not have to be consecutive, but the articles you choose for each weekly log should fall within a one-week publication time-- i.e. June 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>= week one.) OF COURSE it would be great if you continued to read the publications beyond the seven weeks. ☺
- 4) **Submissions of your log and reflection must be made via email between August 4<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup> (midnight), the day before your first day of school. Late work will not be accepted.** Email: [difontai@ksbe.edu](mailto:difontai@ksbe.edu). A reply email from me will confirm I have received your submission.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

I will be traveling and trekking the entire summer, so access to Internet may be sporadic. I will be happy to hear from you over the summer, especially if you have any questions or need clarification on the assignment; however, because I will have limited access to internet, make sure to contact me in a timely manner, especially if you have an important question about the assignment.

My email address: [difontai@ksbe.edu](mailto:difontai@ksbe.edu); English Dept. Chair's email (Kaimi Kaiwi): [mokaiwi@ksbe.edu](mailto:mokaiwi@ksbe.edu)