

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2016

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ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE AUG. 2-9 VIA EMAIL

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 understand the complexities of texts and issues; to acknowledge peoples’ differing opinions and perspectives and to have respect for those opinions; and to see how those perspectives are shaped by forces (historical, governmental, religious, cultural, etc.) we cannot always understand without study and inquiry. If you are in the dark about what’s going on in the world, you *cannot* have a voice in helping to shape it.

2) Global Citizenship

If you are going to participate in shaping your future, you should know about a range of issues that concern your local, national, and global communities; you must be able to offer informed opinions and solutions 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 news stories). The reading requirement will be 10 news pieces per week for six weeks. The writing requirement is to log these in. Completion of these logs will be followed by a reflective essay.

Weekly Reading Logs and Reflection

You have approximately 10 weeks of summer vacation—you choose which of the six weeks you would like to do your reading. They do not have to be consecutive, but I suggest strongly that you do not procrastinate. You will keep track of your reading by filling out a weekly log sheet of your reading selections, which will include a one or two sentence summary of each news story. (A week runs from Sunday to Saturday; the publication date of your selections for each week, with a few exceptions, should fall within the weekly period.) Instructions on how to do the logs and a template can be downloaded from edmodo-- go to APELnews page-- which you should have already joined. After you complete each weekly log, EMAIL IT TO YOURSELF. This will ensure you will still have the document should something tragic happen to your computer and you lose the data.

When you have completed your logs, you will write a reflective essay on the summer assignment. Consider these questions: What was your experience with this assignment? What surprised or fascinated you? What big lessons did you come away with, being a regular reader of the news? Be honest. Your reflection should have a sense of beginning, middle, and end. It should showcase your writing style. It should be at least two pages, double-spaced, using Times or TNR font.

When you are ready to submit your completed assignment at the end of summer, make sure all six reading logs, each with an identifying title (i.e. “Week One: June 01-07”), AND your reflection are saved and submitted on **ONE document**. **This document must be emailed to me within the submission window (August 2-9) to receive credit. MAKE SURE YOU EMAIL EVERYTHING ON ONE DOCUMENT.**

Edmodo

If you do not already have an edmodo account, the link is www.edmodo.com. If you are not familiar with this educational communication network, it is very simple to navigate and figure out. Please register and join the group “APELs c/o 2018.” The group code is **fey8qq** (please email me if it has been locked and you are unable to join.) From the main group page go to “APELnews co 2018” group, located under “Small Groups” on the left. Go into your folders, click on “Summer Reading Docs,” and you will find all of your necessary documents for the summer reading assignment. Over the summer, if you want to chat with your classmates about the newspaper logs, this small group page might be a good place to post questions and suggest news stories or TEDs. Suggestion: set your edmodo settings so that you receive texts when something has been posted; at the very least, check in regularly over the summer-- I may post important announcements or reminders or suggest news stories to read for your assignment.

Making Your Reading Selections

Guidelines to Follow

Interest, Variety, and Exploration: Peruse the sources in the source list (at the end of this document) and read what you are interested in. Read on a variety of topics. Keep abreast of the Hot Topics of the week, but also broaden your horizon by delving into subjects you know little about. EXPLORE! Build your intellectual capital by choosing non-fluffy pieces: If you 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. Go for a story like *The African Poaching Problem* rather than *Lion Cub Bites Tourist in Face*. Cultivate your inner (or outer) intellectual!

Topics Choose a variety of topics. Topics can include (but are not limited to) the following:

-politics	-education	-culture/the arts	-Justice/Injustice	-science/health
-pop culture	-economics	-gender	-War and Peace	-business
-government	-sports	-environment	-religion	-technology

Genre (Articles and Opinions): Your selections for each week should be a combination of both articles AND opinions. Articles report the WHAT. Opinion pieces present the author's opinion on a topic and have a persuasive bent. When you peruse an online newspaper or newsmagazine, you will often find opinions or editorials under "opinions" or "comments." These opinion pieces are often more engaging and interesting than the "objective" news stories on the front pages, although reading a mix of BOTH kinds is expected. Consider reading an article about an event or issue that captures your interest and then finding an opinion piece on that same event/issue. This might make for a fuller understanding of the situation. ☺

Accessing Online Sources

If you do not have a computer and/or Internet connection at home, consider using a relative or friend's computer for an hour or so per week. Another option would be to visit your local public library, where computers with Internet access for public use may be available. If your circumstances make it difficult or impossible to complete this assignment digitally, you MUST contact me before the summer begins so we can come up with a solution. difontai@ksbe.edu

Expectations and Due Dates

- 1) This is an independent assignment: find your own readings (unless suggested on edmodo; write your own logs. Do not plagiarize.
- 2) Word-process your logs. Use the log template to record your entries. You can find the template and a sample log with detailed explanations in your edmodo APELnews folder. PLEASE FOLLOW the guidelines and suggestions; they are there for good reason.
- 3) You will need to read for six weeks (ten articles and op/eds per week = 60 readings.) Your summer break is approximately 10 weeks long. Choose six of those weeks to do your summer reading assignment. (Those six weeks do not have to be consecutive, but the articles you choose for each weekly log, with one or two exceptions--like the TED Talks videos or archived blog entries from *The Universe*-- should fall within a one-week publication time, between Sunday and Saturday, for example-- i.e. June 24-30= week one.) Start early!
- 4) **Submissions** of your log must be made via email **between August 2nd and August 9th (midnight)**, the day before your first day of school. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Email me your document: difontai@ksbe.edu. A reply email from me will confirm I have received your submission.
- 5) **SUBMIT EARLY in the submission week! And make sure you check your email after you submit.** My reply might be to tell you that your document is incomplete or not viewable (this happens almost every year). If there is something wrong with the submission, you will need to fix the problem BEFORE the submission deadline.
- 6) **HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED:** The assignment will be worth approximately 10% of your grade for quarter one. You should make sure that 1) you follow instructions 2) you use the template 3) your choices reflect variety 4) your sentences are accurate, **in your own words**, and are well-written (see the sample log). FYI: The assignment will go through a plagiarism checker.

YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ASSIGNMENT VIA EMAIL—EVERYTHING ON **ONE DOCUMENT--BEFORE THE DEADLINE** (Aug 9th, midnight) TO RECEIVE CREDIT. MAKE SURE TO WAIT FOR MY EMAIL REPLY; IF SOMETHING IS WRONG, IT WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THE SUBMISSION DUE TIME.

Contacting the Instructor

Over the summer I will have regular access to internet. I will be happy to hear from you, especially if you have any questions or need clarification on the assignment. Make sure to contact me in a timely manner, especially if you have an important question. My email address: difontai@ksbe.edu; English Dept. Chair's email (Kaimi Kaiwi): mokaiwi@ksbe.edu; English Department Office: 808-842-8230.

Have a wonderful Summer and **HAPPY READING!!!**

YOUR SOURCE LIST (and links) Choose only from the list below.

Required (2 per week)

TED talks www.ted.com

National Public Radio www.npr.org

← Choose one TED Talks video to view and *one piece* from NPR each week.

Local Publications (2 per week)

The Hawaii Independent www.hawaiiindependent.net

Honolulu Civil Beat www.civilbeat.com

The Umiverse www.theumiverse.wordpress.com *See note below.

← Choose two pieces from these local sources each week.

U.S. Continent Publications (2 per week)

Washington Post www.washingtonpost.com

Indian Country www.indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com

New York Times www.nytimes.com **See note below.

The Wall Street Journal www.online.wsj.com

Los Angeles Times www.latimes.com

The Onion www.theonion.com *** Read warning below!

← Choose two pieces from these US publications each week; at least ONE piece MUST be an opinion.

International Publications (2 per week)

The Guardian www.theguardian.com/world

The Science Christian Monitor www.csmonitor.com

Spiegel International www.spiegel.de/international/

Al Jazeera www.aljazeera.com

← Choose two pieces from these international publications each week.

Newsmagazines (2 per week)

Smithsonian www.smithsonian.com

The New Yorker www.newyorker.com

The Economist www.economist.com

The Atlantic www.theatlantic.com

Scientific American www.scientificamerican.com

Harper's Magazine www.harpers.org

Slate www.slate.com

← Choose two pieces from these newsmagazine sources each week.

* The *Umiverse* is a blog site written by Kamehameha's own Kumu Umi Perkins.

** *The New York Times* is one of my favorites, but unless you have a subscription, you'll be limited in the number of articles you can read for free each month. It has some really great writing, especially the opinions!

***About *The Onion*: WARNING! This is devoted to **satire**; some pieces may contain strong language. If you choose a piece from this site, you are limited to only one per week.