

Many students complain that they hate summer reading because they have no choice in what they read. I like compromises, so for AP Lang, you get a choice. You must read 3 texts.

Required Reading:

1. *Any novel of your choice.* 😊

2. *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser – Dive into a journalist’s account of the fast food industry and its effects on Americans’ way of life (and waistlines). Be warned: you may never again look at fast food in the same way.

3. “Consider the Lobster” by David Foster Wallace – Wallace was sent to the Maine Lobster Festival by *Gourmet Magazine*. His assignment: to take in the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes and to write an article. If you’ve never read David Foster Wallace, you’ve probably never read a food article quite like this.

NEWSPAPERS – One of the best ways to succeed in this course is by being well informed. (It’s also one of the best ways to engage with the world, develop well-informed opinions, and win arguments.) To that end...

Choose one newspaper article each week to read (a total of 10 articles – I will check for dates that span the 10 weeks). These articles must be from the news, editorial, or sports section. Find stories that address **controversial** topics. You will clip or print each article and bring them to class, along with five one-page, typed (double-spaced), personal responses to the most compelling five articles.

Close, critical reading means reading with a pencil in hand and using it. As you progress through your summer reading, you **MUST** actively take notes. I strongly recommend that you purchase copies of the books so that you can annotate on the page (within paragraphs and in the margins). **On the back of this page** are suggestions for the types of notes you should be taking. Be prepared to discuss your annotations.

What else? Have a memorable summer, and come to class ready to work. I’m looking forward to a great year with you! 😊

Active Reading and Annotation

Especially in a course like this, offering informed and thoughtful opinions on the material we read is crucial (NO SHOOTING FROM THE HIPS). Taking thorough notes is the key to your success when we discuss and write about the readings.

Your Method for Annotating

This is your chance to speak back to the author and to question, challenge, or debate the ideas presented on the page. Jot your notes directly on the page – in the margins or within paragraphs (on Post-it Notes if you do not own the book). There is no one way to annotate, but below are some key elements that you should consider. Do not limit yourself to one or two of these elements – incorporate several of them into the process.

- > Ask yourself what each book/essay/article is arguing. Is there an opinion being presented?
- > Do you agree or disagree with that opinion, and why?
- > Label and interpret literary devices (metaphors, tone, diction, structure, characterization, imagery, etc.)

- > How are these devices used to persuade the reader of the author's opinion?
- > Underline sentences or phrases that you like or that strike you as important. Don't underline everything, though. Then nothing will stand out.

- > Circle a word that strikes you as significant, and comment on the author's decision to use that word.
- > Put an asterisk or question mark next to something you'd like to come back to and ponder again.

- > Make connections to other texts, the world, or your own experiences (ex> "Just like Romeo's struggle with fate!" or "Connection to story of Adam/Eve" or "When I worked on the farm two years ago!")

By the end of your summer reading, you should feel anxious picking up a book *without* a pencil in hand. Think of annotation as creating a roadmap to key sections of the book. Without those notes in the margins, you will be lost when you return to the text.