

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School
AP Language and Composition
2019 Summer Assignment
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Welcome to AP Language and Composition! Here's what you should know before September:

AP English Language and Composition is a writing course focused on the study and practice of "rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts and the development and revision of well-reasoned, evidence-centered analytic and argumentative writing" (College Board, AP English Course Description, pg. 8). This definition may sound isolated from day-to-day teenage life, but if you've ever wanted someone to understand you, believe you, agree with you, or take action, then you've practiced rhetorical skills. In its simplest definition, rhetoric is the study of the effective use of language and its potential to clearly express ideas with an audience in mind.

Your summer work is designed to:

- a) Introduce you to the study of rhetoric.
- b) Read fiction with a heightened focus on style and narrative technique.

Your summer assignment includes the following:

1) Thank You For Arguing Third Edition (only purchase 3rd edition)

Read and annotate: *Thank You For Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About The Art of Persuasion Third Edition* by Jay Heinrichs. Revised and Updated Version © 2017

SBN-13: 978-0804189934
ISBN-10: 0804189935

If you Read Heinrichs' book early in the summer, review it in August so the content will be fresh when you start school in September. You will need your own copy of the book and are expected to annotate the text and bring it with you to your first AP Language and Composition class. During the first week of school, we will use this book.

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2) The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Read and annotate: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

ISBN-13: 978-0544309760

O'Brien has explained that although *The Things They Carried* is a work of fiction, it is in some ways, "truer" than a factual reporting of his time as a soldier in Vietnam. O'Brien explains that the "emotional truth" one can achieve in writing, can often be more accurate than the "actual truth." Keep this in mind as you read. **DO NOT RELY** on any Cliffnotes, Sparknotes or other study aids. The purpose of this assignment cannot be gleaned from reading any summaries and/or prepared analysis. Additionally, you must bring your most mature self to the reading of this text.