

AP English Language and Composition
2021 Summer Assignment

Ms. Wicks

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Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. AP English Language is a college-level writing course with an emphasis on critical reading of nonfiction prose infused with discussion of politics, history, social sciences, and current events. This class will ask you to analyze writing, develop sound reasoning and argumentation, as well as examine the power of language. For some, this work may be particularly intense, while for others, this work may serve as a review; regardless the work is designed to ensure your commitment to the challenge and rigor of the course, as well as ensure that you possess the prerequisite reading and writing skills for success in the course.

PART 1: Flashcards

Create a flashcard for every highlighted term on the AP Glossary of Terms and use them every spare moment you have to learn them all summer long. The purpose of making flashcards is for you to develop a strong familiarity with the language of rhetoric. The flashcards can help you do this if you spend time memorizing the meanings/definitions of each of the terms so that you know them like you know the back of your own hand. USE your flashcards. We will focus a great deal of time on how the use of these terms helps a writer achieve his/her purpose. You must know the terms and their meanings if you are going to be successful.

Flashcard Template

Front	Back
Term	Definition: Example: Leave blank. We will fill in throughout the year.

PART 2: Grammar

Resource: The Elements of Style (4th Edition) by William Strunk & EB White

Online Access: <https://www.bartleby.com/141/>

Read and digest Stunk and White's *The Elements of Style* (4th Edition). AP Language and Composition is a course on language and writing. This little book will help you review and improve any weaknesses that you may have. *Suggested Task: Take meaningful notes on concepts and terms unfamiliar to you - pay special mind to parts 2 and 5 when evaluating your own work - and organize these concepts by creating and identifying examples, or correcting your own errors. This is not graded or collected; it is a foundational exercise to support analyzing rhetorical choices.*

Join our Khan Academy class and watch the assigned grammar review videos. Each video is under 5 minutes and most videos are under 3 minutes. You do not have to watch all of the videos at once. It is best if you pace yourself and use both the videos and *The Element of Style* to brush up on your grammar skills. There will be ___ unit quizzes to complete on Khan Academy. Each unit quiz is under 15 questions.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/join/WDS923NC>

PART 3: Reading & Rhetorical Analysis

Read *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls and annotate the text Once you have fully read the book, reflect on some of the rhetorical choices Walls makes and discuss how they affect your understanding of the novel. Complete all of the questions below in complete and thoughtful sentences. The questions in bold are rhetorical analysis based and the unbolded questions are more analysis driven. Please copy and paste the questions and complete on your own google doc or complete neatly on loose leaf.

Physical copies of the book are available to pick up from the school but you can also view the PDF using the link below.

https://ia803106.us.archive.org/17/items/the-glass-castle-a-memoir_201810/the-glass-castle-a-memoir.pdf

- 1. Discuss the metaphor of a glass castle and what it signifies to Jeannette and her father. Why is it important that, just before leaving for New York, Jeannette tells her father that she doesn't believe he'll ever build it?**
- 2. The first story Walls tells of her childhood is that of her burning herself severely at age three, and her father dramatically takes her from the**

hospital: "You're safe now" Why do you think she opens with that story, and how does it set the stage for the rest of the memoir?

3. Jeannette's mother insists that, no matter what, "life with your father was never boring" What kind of man was Rex Walls? What were his strengths and weaknesses, his flaws and contradictions?
4. Discuss Rose Mary Walls. What did you think about her description of herself as an "excitement addict"?
5. **Though it portrays an incredibly hardscrabble life, The Glass Castle is never sad or depressing. Discuss the tone of the book, and how do you think that Walls achieved that effect?**
6. In college, Jeannette is singled out by a professor for not understanding the plight of homeless people; instead of defending herself, she keeps quiet. Why do you think she does this?
7. **The two major pieces of the memoir -- one half set in the desert and one half in West Virginia -- feel distinct. What effect did such a big move have on the family -- and on your reading of the story? How would you describe the shift in the book's tone?**
8. What character traits -- both good and bad -- do you think that Jeannette inherited from her parents? And how do you think those traits shaped Jeannette's life?