

June 2011

Dear Students,

Congratulations on your acceptance in AP English: Language and Composition! I believe you will find your studies next year challenging and rewarding. To prepare you for class next year, I expect you to do some reading and writing this summer. These assignments will be collected when you return to Eatonville in September. In AP English: Language and Composition, mostly non-fiction texts are studied examining the process and the product of writing, its rhetorical stance, and its rhetorical techniques. We will examine several essential questions to arrive at the following enduring understandings:

- Writing is a form of communication used throughout the ages.
- Writing requires clear purpose, selection of mode, and the identification of audience.
- Writing requires the intentional use of rhetoric, syntax, and grammar.
- Writing provides a way to understand self and others
- Writing reflects the human condition.

Summer Reading:

Our text books have not arrived yet, but I have two articles that I want you to **read, annotate and respond to**. I will try to put a link to the articles on the school website. (If it's not accessible there, you can Google them or they are accessible at local libraries.) Both are about reading.

Crain, Caleb. "Twilight of the Books." *The New Yorker*. 24 December 2007. Web. 31 May 2011. <[http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2007/12/24/071224crat\\_atlarge\\_crain](http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2007/12/24/071224crat_atlarge_crain)>.

Holmes, Linda. "The Sad, Beautiful Fact That We're All Going to Miss Almost Everything." NPR.org. 11 April 2011. Web. 31 May 2011. <<http://www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee/2011/04/21/135508305/the-sad-beautiful-fact-that-were-all-going-to-miss-almost-everything?sc=emaf>>

After you have read the articles and annotated them with your questions, thoughts, and reactions, then answer the following questions. Each response should be **at least** one good paragraph (by which I mean several sentences with well-chosen, explained examples backing up your ideas).

1. What do you see as each author's thesis? How does he/she advance that thesis?
  - --Consider what evidence the authors include, and what rhetorical devices (i.e. metaphors, diction, syntax, etc.) they use.
  - --Consider what each does to persuade the audience to listen to him or her.
  - --Consider what exactly they want the reader to think and feel, and how they make that happen.
  - USE EVIDENCE/QUOTES to back up your answers.
2. With whom do you agree? Why? Back up your answer with specific evidence.

**NOTE:** This will be one of my first glimpses of your analysis and writing abilities, so take care to write clearly, cleanly, and concisely.