

AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2017
Miss Taryn Hartley
thartley@stbernardhs.org

ASSIGNMENT Part #1

Summer reading provides an early opportunity to be immersed in the type of texts with which we will be working throughout the school year. It also gives students a chance to become comfortable with and exercise specific skills required throughout the class.

For the reading portion of the AP Language and Composition summer assignment, students will need to choose two books (from the Required Summer Reading List) to **read and annotate**. One book **MUST** be the Required Book #1 (*Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza), the second book can be one of your choice from the reading list.

Proof of annotation must be clear. If you buy the book, you can write in it. If not, use post-it notes or some other form of note-taking. Scanning and printing pages from it and then annotating would be another acceptable idea.

For each text, students will also need to complete a **dialectical journal** (see below for instructions and example). This work is due on the first day of class and will prove to be beneficial during the first weeks of class as there will be a related writing assignment.

Complete the following for both books and bring them to class on the first day:

Dialectical Journal:

You will complete a series of journal entries for each book that demonstrates engagement with the texts, attempts to understand the various arguments presented, and provides a sampling of your best critical thinking.

For each book, you will complete a chart like the example below. Please be professional—all information must be typed (12 point font, Times New Roman print). In addition, you must:

- Create a heading with your name, the book title, and book author. You only need one heading for each book and you must use proper MLA format.
- Select **9-12 meaningful passages** that adequately draw from the beginning, middle, and end of each text.
- Write out the entire passage to which you will refer and include the page number from which it came.
- Paraphrase or summarize the passage. It will be helpful to provide the context in which it came. In other words, what is happening before and after this passage appears in the text?
- Analyze and react to the passage in full sentences—not notes. This should NOT just be a

personal reaction or summary; rather, you should attempt to analyze the methods that the writer uses to make his or her argument. This is where you will show your engagement and reflection. Your analysis should be longer than the selected quotation or passage.

Example set-up:

Student Name: John Doe

Book Name: *The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*

Author: David Callahan

Quotation/Passage from the text w/page number	Paraphrase or Summary	Analyze and React
<p>I played a lot of Monopoly growing up. Like most players of the game, I loved drawing a yellow Community Chest card and discovering a “bank error” that allowed me to collect \$200. It never occurred to me not to take the cash. After all, banks have plenty of money, and if one makes an error in your favor, why argue? I haven’t played Monopoly in twenty years, but I’d still take the \$200 today. And what if a real bank made an error in my favor? That would be a tougher dilemma. Such things do happen. (1)</p>	<p>The author is remembering that a common childhood game had a positive moment when a player received “free” cash because a bank made a mistake. This is the way the book begins and sets up the idea of the Cheating Culture.</p>	<p>By beginning with a reference to a childhood game, the author reminds the audience of something that most people probably remember—not just the game, but the excitement of a “bank error” card. He also issues the question that “banks have plenty of money” so “why argue?” This really mimics what most people would probably say in real life to justify why they should keep money that isn’t rightfully theirs. He moves from this game topic to a suggestion that it could really happen (which he will explain later) and suggests that it would be a “tougher dilemma.” It almost seems like this could be a sarcastic remark. I think many people would just take the money. We tend to view banks as huge institutions that they will not miss a few rogue dollars here and there. This idea that Wall Street continues to pay out bonuses while the “little guy” is barely getting by or may not even have a job is especially prevalent now. By this question, the author seems to be trying to get us to ask if we can even justify that type of thinking. Is this the right decision to make?</p>

