

# AP<sup>®</sup> English Language and Composition

## Summer Assignment 2021

Welcome to 11<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Placement English Language and Composition. AP Lang and Comp is a college-level language course that focuses heavily on non-fiction texts and the art of rhetoric. The course combines social sciences, history, current events, as well as the rhetoric of politics, advertising, news, speeches, debate and more; yet, we will integrate novels where necessary to support thematic developments. You'll find this course unique from other English classes you've taken in the past as we explore and analyze language, argumentation, logic, and style in order to gain a deeper understanding of specific choices made in the author's craft.

For the summer assignment, you will need a copy of the book *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs, which is the #1 book in the "speech" category on Amazon and can be found here:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/0593237382>

**The tasks below will be due on the first day of class:**

1. Read *Thank You for Arguing* and be prepared for a discussion and/or comprehension check.
2. Choose 10 chapters out of the 30 from the book that were particularly significant to you. For each chapter, provide one paragraph that summarizes it and one that responds to it. Your responses should include details about how the chapter relates to your life or the world around you. Each paragraph should be a minimum of eight sentences.
3. Using some of the ideas and lessons you learned from the book, write an analysis of Sojourner Truth's speech "Ain't I a Woman?" A re-creation of the speech can be found on Marco Learning's YouTube channel entitled "Sojourner Truth - Ain't I A Woman?" linked here: [https://youtu.be/V090\\_BhJw3Y](https://youtu.be/V090_BhJw3Y)

Your analysis should be well-developed, well-organized, and focused on how Truth used rhetoric, or the art of persuasion, to make her point. Do not simply translate what she meant. Instead, look at the strategic choices that went into the construction of this speech to best persuade her audience. As a result, you will want to consider the elements of Aristotle's rhetorical triangle. Again, be able to identify her point and several of the dominant strategies she used to make it, considering the context and audience. By "strategies," think actions, verbs, rhetorical moves.

To help you with this, consider how one would answer the question, "How did you build the house?" Instead of saying, "I used **wood, nails, hammers, and stucco,**" a clearer answer might be, "First, I **laid** the foundation using concrete to provide a solid base; then, I **framed** the house following the architectural plans; finally, I **installed** the roofing to protect it from the elements," etc. Notice that the first example is focused on nouns, while the second is organized by verbs, or actions. Many of the highly successful rhetorical analysis essays do the latter. That is your first piece of advice from your AP Lang teachers, and while we don't expect perfection, we would like to get a sense of your ability to integrate new learning.

We look forward to meeting you. Have a great summer!