

IB English A: Language and Literature – Higher Level

Grade 11 Summer Assignment 2021

Instructor: Mr. Heck

Welcome to IB! How is it different from AP? This is an important question you should consider before moving forward. While AP classes tend to be “a la carte” classes that you select individually and prepare for a single end-of-year exam, IB classes tend to be a part of a suite of classes that are designed to give you deeper, inquiry-based learning experience by cultivating you as a curious, globally-conscious citizen. I know that sounds vague, so check out this official description:

https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/publications/recognition/1_langlithl.pdf

If you read the description, you may notice that it may look even more rigorous than AP, and you would not necessarily be wrong. For instance, rather than your exam score being based on one test at the end of the year, it is based on multiple papers that get assessed externally by the IB organization and an individual oral examination that is assessed in-house. It will indeed be a challenge, no doubt, but a potentially rewarding one.

In this class, you will study “texts,” both literary and non-literary – written and visual – such as speeches, advertising, blogs, films, photographs, and much more. To begin to understand the world of language, as it is used in the world around us, the summer assignment is based on 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>

These 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 linked here: 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 you 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 me, and while I don’t expect perfection, I would like to get a sense of your ability to integrate new learning.

That said, I hope you are ready for an exciting year. I look forward to meeting you.