

Bishop Kearney High School  
AP Language & Composition  
Summer Reading 2017

Welcome to AP Language! This course is unlike a traditional literature course as the focus is on non-fiction, rhetorical analysis, and the close examination of language and its various constructions and effects. Over the summer, you are to **1) read one non-fiction book 2) read one book on writing and grammar 3) view one documentary**

**1) Read a non-fiction text:** Choose *one* Non-Fiction text from the AP Language Outside Reading List (attached) and . . .

As you read, create a **Dialectical Journal** (see sample) to take notes on anything that helps you to understand the author's *purpose* and what he does as the writer to achieve this purpose. All year, our focus will be on what the author is doing, how they do it, and why. Your Dialectical Journal should be typed and will need to be submitted through **turnitin.com** the first week of classes. Please number each journal entry and number each page. Your Dialectical Journal should include a **minimum of 20 entries which represent the entirety of the text**—beginning to end. Be sure to analyze key aspects of the author's style and literary/rhetorical strategies in your Dialectical Journal.

**2) Read a book on writing:** *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk JR. and E.B. White

*"To study this book is to learn from the masters. When I was homeschooling my oldest son during his early high school years, this was the only writing book that we used. The only other instruction I gave him was to correct the mistakes on the novels he was writing at the time. When it was time for him to take the SAT test, he received the highest possible score on the writing section, and he hadn't even completed the essay because he ran out of time. If a parent or teacher is knowledgeable enough about writing, this is really the only writing book a student will ever need. Whenever anyone asks me for a recommendation for a writing book, this is the one to which I refer them."*—Starred Amazon Review

As you read, **ANNOTATE** this book – Underline, highlight and make notes in the margins about interesting ideas, questions you have, comments, etc. You will need to purchase your own copy of this book as you can obviously not write all over a library book. You will need to bring in your annotated copy of *The Elements of Style* the first week of school.

**3) View a documentary feature-length film.** Be ready to discuss your film during the first week of school.

Here is a link to a list of the top 100 documentary films:

<http://www.imdb.com/list/ls000650779/>

DO NOT VIEW THE FILM TITLED **BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE**...we will be watching that in class.....

*Non-Fiction Book Title*

**Dialectical Journal Template**

**In the first column: Write down a direct quote from the text with the page cited.  
In the second column: Explain why you selected this quotation. Briefly put the quotation in context, and explain its meaning and significance. Does it help to illustrate a theme? Does it convey mood or tone? Is it an example of logos, pathos or ethos? Etc.**

Quotation From the Text	Page Number	Response
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## AP English Language and Composition Nonfiction Reading List

Remember that you don't have to choose something from this list. This list is to inspire you and give you an idea of the college-level material I'm looking for. Explore on your own. Check out best-seller lists, new releases displays at bookstores, and the stacks at our school and city libraries.

### ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH ISSUES

Title	Author	Description
Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America Animal, Vegetable, Miracle	Thomas L. Friedman	Explores the decline of our planet because of global warming and overcrowding and offers solutions to the downward trend. Pulitzer Prize winning author.
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History	Barbara Kingsolver	One family's quest to "live off the land" in modern America
Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us Any nonfiction book	Elizabeth Kolbert Michael Moss	This author posits that our planet has begun our sixth mass die-off, and it's all our fault. An investigative report links the rise in obesity with the rise of the processed foods industry
Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal	Michael Pollan	Author asks interesting questions about food, where it comes from, how its history affects our lives, and how it becomes sustenance for our lives Titles: The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto, Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation
The World Without Us	Eric Schlosser	An exploration of the history of fast food, the impact it has had on our lives, and the myths we should forget about it
	Alan Weisman	A simple concept of imagining the Earth without human beings offers an intriguing way to explore our impact on the planet

### SCIENCE / MEDICINE (Especially appealing for students who are science oriented or interested in the medical field)

Title	Author	Description
Weed the People: The Future of Legal Marijuana in America	Bruce Barcott	What will the next several years bring in our country with this divisive issue?
Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness	Susannah Cahalan	A twenty-two-year-old reporter's memoir of suffering from a rare brain disease that opened research in the medical community
Surgeon!: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Doctor	Dr. Richard Caleel	A must read for anyone interested in the medical profession
Stoned: A Doctor's Case for Medical Marijuana	Dr. David Casarett	An objective medical view of one of the most divisive topics in the country today
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind	Dr. Yuval Noah Harari	How did our one species of people become the only one?
Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death, and Brain Surgery	Dr. Henry Marsh	A neurosurgeon shares this memoir full of both doubts and fears as well as stories of particularly memorable cases
The Emperor of All Maladies	Siddhartha Mukherjee	The "biography" of cancer and its treatment for over a thousand years
What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions	Randall Munroe	Interesting questions—such as "What if everyone on earth jumped at the same time?"—answered by a form NASA roboticist
The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science Is Still a Boys' Club Any nonfiction book	Eileen Pollack Mary Roach	A creative writing professor who holds a bachelor of science in physics from Harvard reflects on her own academic experience in the quest to understand gender bias in the sciences #1 best-selling author who asks questions we would rarely ask in a scientific way about our digestive system, ghosts, and dead bodies Titles: Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal; Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife; Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales	Oliver Sacks	Recounts the case histories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Rebecca Skloot	The story of a poor Southern tobacco farmer's wife whose cells—taken without her knowledge—became the first "immortal cells" in history, still alive today and used in numerous experiments since her death over 60 years ago.

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**TRUE CRIME**

Title	Author	Description
Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders	Vincent Bugliosi	Written by the lead prosecuting attorney, this book recounts the horrific crimes committed by Charles Manson and four of his followers
In Cold Blood	Truman Capote	The first nonfiction novel. Reconstructs the 1959 murder of a Kansas farm family and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, the story of the lives and deaths of these six people, the victims and the murderers.
Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rae and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb	Bernard Lefkowitz	Account of 1989 rape of a mentally retarded girl by members of a NJ high school football team. Several parallels to like crimes in recent years.
Ghettocide: A True Story of Murder in America	Jill Leovy	A reporter who has spent decades in the Los Angeles area explores black-on-black violence and the reasons why it keeps happening
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption	Bryan Stevenson	Set in Harper Lee's hometown of Monroeville, AL, this is the story of a black man convicted of murdering a white woman by his lawyer, an NYU law professor. This is an examination of capital punishment in America.
A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption	Dina Temple-Raston	Explores the aftermath of the 1998 killing of James Byrd, Jr., a black man who was chained and dragged along a country road by three white males.

**GENERAL NONFICTION**

Title	Author	Description
He Wanted the Moon: The Madness and Medical Genius of Dr. Perry Baird, and His Daughter's Quest to Know Him	Mimi Baird	When a father goes missing, his daughter doesn't understand why until she receives a manuscript in which he claims to have been locked in a mental institution. This is both of their stories.
Power Plays: Politics, Football, and Other Blood Sports	John M. Barry	An examination of the causes and effects of the pursuit of power in the arenas of the media, politics, and even college football. Award winning and NYT Bestselling author.
The Dark Net: Inside the Digital Underworld	Jamie Bartlett	Director of the Center for the Analysis of Social Media at the British think tank Demos introduces you to the trolls, anarchists, pervers and drug dealers who seek freedom in the "darknet," a cyberspace sometimes said to be 500 times larger than Google
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking	Susan Cain	Real-life examples that could change the way we see quiet members of our society
Between the World and Me	Ta-Nehisi Coates	An exploration of racial inequality that Nobel laureate Toni Morrison calls "required reading"
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America	Barbara Ehrenreich	One woman's story of attempting to survive on minimum wage
How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization	Franklin Foer	A surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between.
The Battle of Versailles: The Night American Fashion Stumbled into the Spotlight and Made History	Robin Givhan	The story of one night in 1973 that changed the fashion world forever
Any nonfiction book	Malcolm Gladwell	#1 best-selling author explores dynamics of our world in new ways Titles: Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking; David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants; Outliers: The Story of Success; The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference
Future Crimes: Everything Is Connected, Everyone Is Vulnerable and What We Can Do About It	Marc Goodman	Because of technology, everyone knows everything about you and will use that information against you (and for themselves).
Beneath the Surface: Killer Whales, Sea World, and the Truth Beyond Blackfish	John Hargrove	A former senior orca trainer at Sea World relates his experience with these highly intelligent animals in captivity and ponders whether they should ever be held there

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Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World	Linda Hirschman	A joint biography of the first two women on the United States Supreme Court
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace	Jeff Hobbs	Written like a novel, this is the story of a young man from New Jersey, born into poverty, who, after graduating from Yale, returned home to become a drug dealer.
unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation	Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson	Guide to seeing through 21 <sup>st</sup> century media spin by the founders of FactCheck.org
The Pentagon's Brain: An Uncensored History of DARPA, America's Top-Secret Military Research Agency	Annie Jacobsen	History of the group responsible for most military technology that our country uses today
Any nonfiction book	Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	Intriguing, easily readable explorations of data that answer questions like "Why do drug dealers live with their moms?" and "Do parents really matter?" Titles: Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes, and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance, Think Like a Freak
Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong	James W. Loewen	One history professor's attempt to correct mistakes and misconceptions he found in several high school American history textbooks. Winner of American Book Award.
Hi is for Hawk	Helen Macdonald	Memoir of a woman who takes up falconry while dealing with grief
Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business	Neil Postman	An investigation of the television's effect on American culture
If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran	Carla Power	The author, a secular American, and her long-time friend, an imam, journey to discover the misunderstandings and hatreds in their two cultures
Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic	Sam Quinones	How the pain pill and heroin businesses have become the biggest problems in small-town America
The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids	Alexandra Robbins	An exploration of how our current educational climate of high-stakes testing and pressure to achieve affects students
Any nonfiction book	Jon Ronson	A writer that follows the story where it takes him finds and reports surprising information about how our modern world works
The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?	Dale Russakoff	Titles: So You've Been Publicly Shamed; Them: Adventures with Extremists; The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through the Madness Industry
Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market	Eric Schlosser	When Mark Zuckerberg, Chris Christie, and Oprah want to throw piles of money to help failing schools in New Jersey but it doesn't work out the way everyone thinks it will
Terms of Service: Social Media and the Price of Constant Connection	Jacob Silverman	An exploration of underground drug trade and its surprising parallels to big business
The Dogs Are Eating Them Now: Our War in Afghanistan	Graeme Smith	A book that is becoming increasingly more important in our world, especially to your generation
Ordinary Light: A memoir	Tracy K. Smith	This war correspondent from Canada writes about his experience in Afghanistan and his changing feelings toward the recent war.
Arms: The Culture and Credo of the Gun	A.J. Somers	A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet reflects on her life growing up as a young American black woman
ISIS: The State of Terror	Jessica Stern and J.M. Berger	A history of and exploration of guns in human culture by a former soldier and journalist
A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League	Ron Suskind	Two of our country's leading terrorism experts describe the fundamentalist Islam group that functions more like a corporation than group of insurgents A young man's journey from the slums of DC to Brown University

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One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School	Scott Turow	The author's experiences of being indoctrinated at America's most prestigious law school
How Music Got Free: The End of an Industry, the Turn of the Century, and the Patient Zero of Piracy	Steven Witt	A journalist explores the history of music piracy and its rise to the forefront of America as well as how it changed the way we listen to music
The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women	Naomi Wolf	A bestselling classic about the obsession with physical perfection
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban	Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb	Memoir of Miss Upton's hero, a young Pakistani girl who was an activist for girls' education and became an enemy on the Taliban's hit list.

**HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS**

Title	Author	Description
Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth	Reza Aslan	Detailed, thoroughly-researched biography that "challenges long-held assumptions"
Any historical account	John M. Barry	Best-selling author explores highly-charged incidents in American history Titles: Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America; Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State and the Birth of Liberty; The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History
A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	Ishmael Beah	One young man's experience as a child soldier during wars in Africa's Sierra Leone.
Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice	Bill Browder	The biography of a Wall Street suit who takes his talents to Russia soon after the break-up of the Soviet Union, eventually becoming Vladimir Putin's number-one enemy
One Summer: America, 1927	Bill Bryson	An eventful season that includes Babe Ruth, Al Capone, Charles Lindbergh, and Calvin Coolidge
The Billion-Dollar Spy: A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal	David E. Hoffman	True account of Cold War-era CIA operations and the penetration of Moscow
Is Paris Burning: How Paris Miraculously Escaped Adolf Hitler's Sentence of Death in August 1944	Larry Collins and Dominique Lapiere	Dramatic story of the liberation of Paris. Exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written
Columbine	Dave Cullen	10 years after the tragic events in Littleton, Colorado, asks questions about not only the shooters and victims but also the culture that surrounded such an incident.
Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune	Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr.	Account of a reclusive heiress that spans from the Gilded Age of the 1800s to the 21 <sup>st</sup> century and a mysterious history of her family and fortune
Man's Search for Meaning	Viktor E. Frankel	Psychiatrist's memoir of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Has sold more than 10 million copies in twenty-four languages. Listed in a Library of Congress survey as among top ten books that made a difference in people's lives.
Any nonfiction account	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Pulitzer-prize winning author writes in-depth biographies of some of the most influential figures of 20 <sup>th</sup> century America Titles: The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism; Team of Rivals; The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln; No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt; Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream; The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga
Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County: A Family, a Virginia Town, a Civil Rights Battle	Kristen Green	Government-regulated desegregation led one town to close down its public school system for five years and funnel its money into an all-white private school. The author, a product of that private school, explores both the history and repercussions of that decision.
Underground in Berlin: A Young Woman's Extraordinary Tale of Survival in the Heart of Nazi Germany	Marie Jalowicz Simon	Story of a woman who survives World War II because of the kindness of others
Profiles in Courage for Our Time	Caroline Kennedy	Continues the legacy her father began with the original Profiles in Courage. Includes the accounts of thirteen acts of modern political bravery.

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Any nonfiction book	Jon Krakauer	Best-selling author writes about harrowing contemporary journeys that test the limits of humanity Titles: <i>Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a Small Town</i> ; <i>Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster</i> ; <i>Into the Wild</i> ; <i>Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith</i> ; <i>Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman</i>
Any nonfiction account	Erik Larson	Exciting stories and mysteries that border on true crime Titles: <i>The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America</i> ; <i>In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin</i> ; <i>Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History</i> ; <i>Thunderstruck</i> ; <i>Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania</i>
Any biography or fictional account	David McCullough	Riveting histories that don't feel like you're reading them from one of our country's most prolific historians Titles: <i>The Wright Brothers</i> ; 1776; <i>The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914</i> ; <i>The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge</i> ; <i>John Adams</i> ; <i>The Johnstown Flood</i> ; <i>Mornings on Horseback: The Story of an Extraordinary Family, a Vanished Way of Life and the Unique Child Who Became Theodore Roosevelt</i> ; <i>Truman</i> ; <i>The Greater Story: Americans in Paris</i> ; <i>The Course of Human Events</i>
Any biography	Jon Meacham	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and editor of <i>Newsweek</i> magazine writes award-winning, in-depth studies of some of the greatest men our country has ever known Titles: <i>American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House</i> ; <i>Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power</i> ; <i>Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship</i> ; <i>American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation</i>
81 Days Below Zero: The Incredible Survival Story of a World War II Pilot in Alaska's Frozen Wilderness	Brian Murphy	Yet another incredible story of survival during World War II
Reading Lolita in Tehran	Azar Nafisi	One bold teacher who shares forbidden Western literature with seven Iranian women
The Jefferson Rule: Why We Think the Founding Fathers Have All the Answers	David Sehat	A historical evaluation of invoking the founders of the U.S. and the Constitution to settle modern arguments
Any historical account or biography	Stacy Schiff	Exciting stories from history from a Pulitzer Prize winner Titles: <i>The Witches: Salem, 1692</i> ; <i>Cleopatra</i> ; <i>A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America</i>
Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning	Timothy Snyder	Understanding Hitler's ideology and its effects on the Germans' beliefs and how they led to the atrocities against other human beings
Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War	Susan Southard	Five survivors' stories that unfold after the bombings that helped end World War II
The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary	Simon Winchester	The interesting account of a giant undertaking and the two men most responsible for it