

A.P. English Language and Composition Summer Assignment

Dear Future English Language and Composition Student,

This class deals primarily with critical reading of non-fiction sources and the art of rhetorical argument, and applying critical analysis to those sources. The following assignments are intended to familiarize you with these types of sources and to help you begin to sharpen the critical skills you will need to succeed in this class and the Language and Composition AP test. Prior to the first day of class, we are asking you to have done the following:

1. Read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, available from the library.
2. Listen to **at least 3** episodes of either “**This American Life**” or “**Radio Lab**”, which are weekly radio programs that appear on National Public Radio. They may be heard on the radio at the same time each week on 91.7 FM, streaming on the internet at www.thisamericanlife.org or www.radiolab.org , or downloaded as a podcast. In each episode, these shows connect multiple stories together around a common theme. For each episode you listen to, write an analysis, citing evidence from the show, of how each of the smaller segments within the show connects to that episode’s broader theme. Then write a reflection on the importance of the theme to yourself personally or to society as a whole.
3. On the first day of class, bring in a well written response to the following essay prompt from this year’s AP Language and Composition exam:

In her book *Gift from the Sea*, author and aviator Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001) writes, “We tend not to choose the unknown which might be a shock or a disappointment or simply a little difficult to cope with. And yet it is the unknown with all its disappointments and surprises that is the most enriching.”

Consider the value Lindbergh places on choosing the unknown. Then write an essay in which you develop your own position on the value of exploring the unknown. Use appropriate, specific evidence to illustrate and develop your position.

Please be advised that school academic integrity policies are in strict effect for these assignments.

See you next year,

Mr. Hislop

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