

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2017

Assignment Overview:

- The summer reading assignment for students enrolled in the AP Language and Composition course for the 2017-18 school year is divided into three tasks. The assignment requires students to read and analyze two pieces of nonfiction: Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed* and Heinrichs' *Thank You for Arguing* (2013 Edition). Additionally, students will read, annotate, and analyze an article on a contemporary issue of their choice. Specifics for each assignment are delineated below.

Task 1: *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich

- Read and annotate [Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*](#) according to the timeline listed below. After you complete each chapter, compose a written analysis to the corresponding prompt (see below). Responses should be approximately two pages and cite specific evidence from the text in order to support claims. All responses are to be uploaded to turnitin.com (see reverse for account information).
- Responses 1-3 are due by **July 28, 2017**. Responses 4-5 are due by **August 4, 2017**.
- Response Prompts:
 - "Introduction: Getting Ready"
 - Critically analyze the guidelines Ehrenreich establishes for herself in the experiment (i.e. what she would and would not do). What effect do these guidelines have on the author's "experiment"? How realistic are these goals for people working below a minimum wage?
 - "Serving in Florida"
 - Compose a reflective response to the author's first experiment in Florida. Discuss your reaction to Ehrenreich's portrayal of her experience. How did reading this chapter transform or reinforce your view of blue collar workers?
 - "Scrubbing in Maine"
 - People often give the "right" answers that may not be the truth, as Ehrenreich did on her job application. Reflect on her rationale for doing so. Why should/shouldn't people always tell the truth, both in their personal and working lives?
 - "Selling in Minnesota"
 - Discuss how and why Ehrenreich uses personal narratives in *Nickel and Dimed*. Focus on one such example from this chapter, and analyze the author's purpose in telling this individual's story.
 - "Evaluation and Afterword"
 - At the onset of her Evaluation chapter, the author seems to arrive at a new understanding of the phrase "unskilled labor" (193). Explain and analyze this new understanding. Then, discuss why Ehrenreich refers to low-wage workers, at the close of her book, as "the major philanthropists of our society" (221).

Task 2: *Thank You for Arguing* (2013 Edition) by Jay Heinrichs

- You will read the first 17 chapters of [Jay Heinrichs' *Thank You for Arguing*](#). Please be sure you have the Revised and Updated 2013 edition of the text. A major purpose of this book is to illustrate how all discourse is essentially an argument, and this concept is one we will apply throughout the AP Language course. As such it is imperative that you read this book closely and actively. It is expected that you will annotate your copy of the text and take sufficient notes as you read, which may include the creation of flashcards for key terms.
 - NOTE: We will use this text (including the chapters that are not part of this assignment) throughout the school year.
- Your first assignment for this text is to compose responses to a series of questions (see attached) on each of the assigned chapters. I would advise that you do this as you read the text.
- Your completed questions will be collected on the first day of class, which is **August 31, 2017**. You may neatly hand-write or type the responses.

Task 3: Article Analysis

- Your second assignment for *Thank You for Arguing* is an analysis an author's application of Heinrichs' ideas. For this assignment, you will select and read an article from a major publication (*The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, etc.). After reading the article, you will produce a composition that analyzes how the article utilizes the concepts and strategies of argument as presented in *Thank You for Arguing*.
 - In other words, you will identify and explain how the article utilizes some of the tools Heinrichs discusses in his book, and then you will analyze how the usage of the tool or strategy affects the effectiveness of the article's argument.
- If you are unsure if the article you have selected is appropriate, please feel free to e-mail me a link to the article, and I would be happy to approve it for you.
- This response should be approximately 3-5 pages in MLA format and will be assessed using the Response to Text School-wide Rubric.
- Your responses should be submitted to [turnitin.com](#) by **August 30, 2017**. You are also required to submit a hard copy of the article you analyze, and this will be collected with your completed questions.

Communication Methods

- This course will utilize several methods of communication in addition to scheduled class meetings. You should contact me via e-mail (schofieldd@lincolnps.org) with any questions about the assignments described in this document.
- Upon receipt of this assignment sheet, students enrolled in the course should create an account and log in to the following mediums of communication. We will use these mediums to correspond throughout the summer.
 - **Remind:** Text @9824db to 81010 to receive periodic text messages regarding assignments, reminders, and updates over the summer and throughout the year.
 - **Google Classroom:** Join the Classroom using the following code: **jqztfm**. Please sign up using your [lincolnps](#) e-mail, which follows this format: [firstname.lastname@lincolnps.org](#).
 - **Turnitin:** Go to [turnitin.com](#) to create an account if you do not already have one. The Class ID is **15518825** and the enrollment password is **Schofield**. This password is case sensitive.