



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2024: AP Language and Composition

"Books are men of higher stature, the only men that speak aloud for future times to hear." -E.S. Barrett

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

Required Texts

- *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch ISBN-10: 9781401323257

(Note: It is important that you purchase the editions indicated by the ISBNs.)

- *On Writing* by Stephen King ISBN-13: 978-1439156810

I. Assignment: *On Writing* by Stephen King

King's book, which is subtitled *A Memoir of the Craft*, provides an excellent response to the question: "Did the author mean to do that?" As King states in the introduction to this book, "What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done" (King xv). In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other literary elements as they compose their work. *On Writing* is divided into four sections: C.V., Toolbox, On Writing, and On Living. Your assignment will, however, be divided into three sections. For each task below, please include proper MLA documentation and citation for the passages discussed. These must be typed (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced).

Task #1 C.V.

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e. imagery, dialogue, figurative language), which most non-AP students often associate with fictional pieces. Identify three passages in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. Explain the elements/techniques he uses and why they are effective.

Task #2 On Writing

How does King feel about writing? How do you know? Choose three key passages from this section in which King defines writing, either directly or figuratively. In your own words, restate King's point about writing in the passage and why you think this point is interesting or important.

Task #3 On Living: A Postscript

This task does not pertain to just this section of the book. Rather, explain your opinion of King as both a writer and a person. Would you consider reading one of his books now, for example? (If

you have read his books prior to this assignment, has your opinion of the author changed? If so, how?) What do you think King's purpose was in writing this book? Support your answers to both prompts with evidence from the text.

II. Assignment: *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch

The practice of keeping commonplace books dates as far back as the 5th century B.C.E. and was especially popular during the 17th and 18th centuries. Thinkers such as John Locke, Francis Bacon, and Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote commonplace books. In a letter to his friend Dr. Thomas Cooper, Jefferson wrote that he "was in the habit of abridging and common placing what [he] read meriting it, and of sometimes mixing [his] own reflections on the subject" (February 1814).

The practice of copying down passages written by favorite authors becomes an exploration of language; this exercise joins the practice of reading and writing and helps writers in developing an awareness of how language works, thus improving their skills and their own style. As you read, record quotes from the text that are puzzling or poignant, insightful or beautiful, shocking or flabbergasting. You should copy (by hand, in ink) FIVE quotes from the text. The quotations should be throughout the book, not solely in one section of the book.

Reflect upon each of the passages/quotes. Then:

1. Describe the traits of the passage that jump out at you. Point to specifics.
2. Explain how those traits make the writing poignant, insightful, or beautiful.
3. Draw inferences about what the author may have intended the reader to experience or understand based on those passages. You may also consider how the passage reflects or contradicts what you read about craft. What makes writing or language beautiful? What makes it effective?

These reflections, like the passages, should be recorded in pen. You should consider each passage, placing commentary after its relevant entry. Your responses do not have to adhere to a strict paragraph structure, but they should be in complete sentences. You also do not have to limit yourself to the stated requirements.

These assignments will be due on the first day of class.

*This text may be found online at no cost. You will download and print the PDF so that you may reference it during the first quarter.

***Please remember the BA English Department policy:
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or
movies; read and mark the texts themselves.***