Language and Composition
Summer Assignment 2025 Pope HS

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! I'm excited that you have decided to explore the power of rhetoric by signing up for this course. In order to hit the ground running and be successful in the fall, you'll need to complete the following tasks over the summer. These tasks are time consuming, so please do not put them off until the end of break.

Tasks at a Glance:

- Read *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs
- Read at least one non-fiction argumentative text from the attached list.
- Respond to items for each book. Responses should be typed and formatted according to MLA standards. Be prepared to participate in discussions with peers during the first week of school.

Item Responses:

It goes without saying that all responses and comments should be conducted in a professional manner. Please be sensitive to others' beliefs and feelings when posting in discussions. When in doubt, leave it out (it rhymes, so you know it's true). Throughout the year we will be engaging in many thought provoking, controversial discussions. This is a good opportunity for you to start working on making your point without damaging relationships or offending others.

- Responses to instructor questions should be formatted as fully developed, well-supported paragraphs. This is how I'm grading you, so make sure that I know you read and understood the texts.
- You must respond to all items.
- Peer comments (during first week of school) should be meaningful and productive. Simple agreement or support will not be accepted or benefit your grade. Your responses should challenge the positions and evidence of your peers in ways that lead to deeper understanding of the texts. The goal is to participate in a meaningful discussion.

Further Preparation:

- Pick a newspaper and start reading the opinion section. I don't care what newspaper you choose. If it were me, I would try less to find things that fit my own iterests, and instead choose opinions that are well-written, nuanced, and measured.

Recommended Book List for selection:

- *The Almost Nearly Perfect People: Behind the Myth of the Scandinavian Utopia* by Michael Booth
- *League of Denial: The NFL, Concussions, and the Battle for Truth* by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru
- *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* by Philip Gourevitch
- *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *Fancy Bear Goes Phishing: The Dark History of the Information Age, in Five Extraordinary Hacks* by Scott J. Shapiro

- *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi
- *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by Jane Jacobs
- *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis (I've seen the movie a bunch of times, so make sure you read the book)
- *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee

Question / Response Items:

Thank You for Arguing Items

1. Keep an argument journal: Record 3 arguments that you encounter in your life over the summer and analyze how Heinrichs would characterize these arguments. Are they effective/ineffective? What techniques are they utilizing and how are they applying them (according to what you've read in *Thank You for Arguing*)?

2. Apply one of Heinrichs' argument strategies/techniques to an argument that you're trying to make. Explain clearly what outcome you were hoping for, and how you applied persuasive techniques. Evaluate your argument's success.

Independent Selection Items

1. Identify one or two of the author's main arguments and explain the arguments' cultural or political relevance at the time of the book's publication. Be thorough.

2. Identify a passage (a few paragraphs) from your book that you found to be particularly persuasive. Analyze the passage and decide what made it successful. Feel free to include things you might have done differently. Be sure to explain the passage's context in relationship to the author's greater purpose.

3. Identify and explain three problems with the author's argument.