

AP English Language & Composition Summer 2020 Assignment

There are three parts to your assignment for this summer. Let us start our journey!

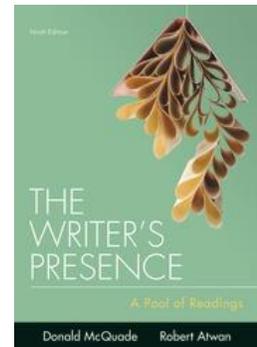
PART I: Nonfiction Selection

The Writer's Presence: A Pool of Readings

Ed. Donald McQuade and Robert Atwan **(9th Edition)**

In this text, please read and annotate the introduction to argumentation and the three essays listed below.

1. *Argumentative Writing: Contending with Issues* (506-513)
2. Laura Kipnis, *Against Love* (546-553)
3. Steven Pinker, *Violence Vanquished* (591-597)
4. Michael J. Sandel, *What Isn't for Sale?* (601-607)



PART II: Periodical Reading

It is important for this course that you read widely and continuously about current events--local, national, and international-- as well as issues and topics of interest in fields such as science, economics, and psychology.

Think of a current issue or topic addressed in one of the above essays that interests you. During the summer, collect four substantial pieces that focus on this topic (at least 300 words long—no maximum length; one can be a visual piece such as a comic or political cartoon OR a podcast episode). ALL should be argument or opinion pieces, not news stories or informational articles. Choose articles that address a range of opinions or perspectives about the topic. The goal is to see ways your topic is presented and discussed by people who may have different perspectives and/or agendas. Make sure to draw from at least two different publications.

Keep your articles together in an electronic folder (links on a document work as well). You will be asked to discuss elements from them in class during the first few weeks.

Suggestions for sources:

The Atlantic (US ideas magazine)

The Economist (UK news magazine)

The Washington Post (US newspaper)

The Guardian (UK newspaper)

Time (US news magazine)

The New York Times (US newspaper)

The New Yorker (US ideas magazine)

Salon.com (online ideas magazine)

Slate.com (online ideas magazine)

Code Switch (podcast)

Call Your Girlfriend (podcast)

Revisionist History (podcast)

NOTE: Sports, lifestyle, or popular culture/entertainment magazine are not recommended unless the writing you are using from them is substantial *and* develops an opinion or argument.

PART III: America in Fiction

Please choose at least **one** selection from the list below to read. You will have assignments in the fall directly pertaining to this novel, and opportunities to reference this text in your junior and senior year.

As you read, consider the following:

1. What did you find valuable about this novel? What scenes or passages do you find particularly memorable?
2. What elements of writing or style did you find compelling? How does it compare to other works we have read at St. Mary's?
3. How does this work influence your understanding of American identity?

Cather, Willa	<i>My Antonia</i>
Gaines, Ernest	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
Irving, John	<i>A Prayer for Owen Meaney</i>
Erdrich, Louise	<i>The Round House</i>
Kingsolver, Barbara	<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>
McCarthy, Cormac	<i>All the Pretty Horses</i>
Shaara, Michael	<i>The Killer Angels</i>
Smith, Betty	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>
Tan, Amy	<i>The Kitchen God's Wife</i>