

AP Lang  
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment  
Manlius Pebble Hill School  
June 2018  
Mr. Montas

Welcome to AP Lang! I hope you're excited to start the summer and have exciting plans for it. If not, sometimes it's great just to slow down and enjoy life as it comes. Either way, you'll have some things to think and learn about as you get ready for AP Lang in September, and I'm very excited to guide you on this journey of studying the arts of persuasion. If you have any questions about the course or this summer assignment, don't hesitate to see me before school ends, or get in touch with me by email ([fmontas@mphschool.org](mailto:fmontas@mphschool.org)) or text (315-263-2231). The website for this course is <http://mphaplang.blogspot.com>, and there you'll find helpful information about the course as well as external links. You can also find assignments and materials from previous years by scrolling through the posts, but keep in mind that key parts of the course change from year to year, and for next year, I'm planning more changes than usual.

Your summer reading and writing assignment consists of four parts; you can complete them in any order. Feel free to read the summer reading book on an electronic reader; just be sure to annotate your book whether you read it digitally or in print. And don't hesitate to get it from the library; there is a risk, however, if it's the only copy in the system, that it might be recalled for another reader's use.

**Part 1:** Buy a copy of *Random House Webster's Power Vocabulary Builder* (ISBN: 0345405455; \$7.99), and complete at least Chapters 4 and 6. (We will use the book during the school year.) Sometime during the first full week of school, you will have to demonstrate your proficiency with some of the words from those chapters.

**Part 2:** Choose and read one of the following books. You may choose another book, but you must ask me about it first, and I'll only approve a book that is nonfiction and serious (which can include satire). On Thursday, September 6, or Friday, September 7, whichever day you have class, you will write an in-class essay on this book.

Jonathan Abrams, *Boys Among Men: How the Prep-to-Pro Generation Redefined the NBA and Sparked a Basketball Revolution*. 352 pages.

Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald, *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*. 272 pages.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*. 236 pages.

Reyna Grande, *The Distance between Us: A Memoir*. 352 pages.

Joy Harjo, *Crazy Brave: A Memoir*. 176 pages.  
Hope Jahren, *Lab Girl*. 304 pages.  
Sebastian Junger, *War*. 320 pages.  
Jay-Z, *Decoded*. 352 pages.  
John B. Judis, *The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics*. 180 pages.  
Paul Kalanithi, *When Breath Becomes Air*. 226 pages.  
Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts*. 209 pages.  
Maria Konnikova, *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes*. 288 pages.  
Janna Levin, *Black Hole Blues and Other Songs from Outer Space*. 256 pages.  
Carol J. Loomis, *Tap Dancing to Work: Warren Buffett on Practically Everything, 1966-2013*. 380 pages.  
Michael MacDonald, *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*. 296 pages.  
Hisham Matar, *The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between*. 272 pages.

**Part 3:** In response to two of the prompts listed below on the page titled “Make Your World a Better Place,” write one double-spaced page (for a total of two pages). Email these to me at [fmontas@mphschool.org](mailto:fmontas@mphschool.org) as you complete them. They are due no later than the first day you have class with me, either Tuesday, September 4, or Wednesday, September 5.

**Part 4:** Make preliminary notes for your STP’s action plan and research plan. [The following is updated from the original handout; thanks to Ashley S. for pointing out my mistake!] For the action plan, consider the following: If you are doing something besides a research paper (e.g., a documentary, performance, or community service), how will you complete it? How much time will you need to devote to it? When will you set aside or make time for it? What kind of assistance or support will you need to complete it? For the research plan, consider the following: Which of the writing options do you think you will pursue? Why? What kinds of sources will you need access to in order to learn as much as you can about your topic? (The STP Handbook is posted on my website if you need to look at the options again.) Bring these notes for both the action plan and the research plan to the first day of class.

Once again, if you have any questions about these assignments, don’t hesitate to get in touch with me by email ([fmontas@mphschool.org](mailto:fmontas@mphschool.org)) or by text (315 263 2231).

Have a great summer!

MAKE YOUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE—SUMMER 2018

Accomplish at least two of these deeds, and have fun doing so! Write approximately one page about each experience that doesn’t already involve writing. Email these writings to me by the first day of school.

Offer to help someone who won't ask for help, and actually help that person.	Read a book aloud to someone at least five years younger or fifty years older than you.	Write to your congressional representative about an issue that matters greatly to you.	Do someone else's household chore(s) without being asked and without expecting anything in return.
Cook a meal or make a dessert for a friend or your family to make them happy.	Sort out belongings that you no longer need and give them to charity.	Watch two films from the American Film Institute (AFI) Top 100 Movies list, one of which should be black and white.*	Lie on the grass and gaze at the clouds or stars or both.
Write a letter to the editor of a local or national publication.	Make a list of all the positive things that you can be thankful for and write thank you notes or letters to the appropriate people.	Read a book or some stories or some poems by an author from a country you've never visited or can't locate on a map.	Handwrite a letter to someone special and mail it.
Learn to play a song on a musical instrument you don't already play.	Do something with someone you love but don't talk to very much.	Watch the news and share stories that you think need more attention.	Turn off your online presence and avoid social media for three days.
Grow something you can eat and share it with others.	Learn a poem, speech, or passage of writing by heart.	Try a new food or meal you aren't sure how to pronounce.	Make a list of things you'd like to accomplish before graduating from MPH.

\*This list is available at <http://www.afi.com/100years/movies10.aspx>.