

Mr. Zencka
AP Language and Composition
2020-2021
Summer Assignment

AP Language and Composition students,

Get excited! You're only two and a half months away from AP Lang! Just so you don't all gnaw your arms off in anticipation of this incredible scholastic experience, I've compiled a little summer work to keep you busy. First, read John Carreyrou's *Bad Blood* and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. When you've finished those, take a look at the writing assignment I've included below. Take note: This is a **required assignment**. Students who don't have this assignment turned in within the first two weeks of school this fall will be asked to move to English 12.

If you have any questions, you can reach me throughout the summer at jzencka@mphschool.org.

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Step 1: Keep a reading journal for both John Carreyrou's *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley* and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. Your writing should aspire to the style of a personal rather than an academic essay. In other words, you should freely include your own observations, questions, emotions, or even personal narratives as you respond to each text. (Feel free to use Stephanie Powell Watts's essay on *The Great Gatsby* at LitHub¹ as a stylistic model.) **Including direct quotations from each text in your journal is required.** You should aim at writing an entry of three-hundred words (minimum) for each hundred-and-fifty pages you read. Journals should be typed.

Step 2: As you will learn from reading *Bad Blood*, Elizabeth Holmes dropped out of Stanford before starting her company, Theranos. Imagine you are Ms. Holmes in present-day 2020, and you have decided you finally would like to get your undergraduate degree. Complete one of the Common App prompts² from the perspective of Elizabeth Holmes.

¹ <https://lithub.com/i-love-the-great-gatsby-even-if-it-doesnt-love-me-back/>

² <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>