



St. Thomas Aquinas

Regional Catholic High School

English III AP Language & Composition Summer Reading Assignment

1. First, read *They Say, I Say, The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. We will use this book as a reference throughout the year. Students will have a test on this book on the first full day of school (50 points possible).
2. Second, choose one book from the New York Times Best Sellers Hardcover **Nonfiction** or Paperback **Nonfiction** lists (2017). The book must be at an appropriate level for your abilities as an AP student and it must be SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. Please remember, this is a college-level course. Therefore, your book selection should be appropriate for a college-level course. Students will then write a 500-750 word short analysis of their chosen book, in which they think about the significant message the author hopes to convey to his/her readers through the writing. Do not just tell what the message is or summarize the book in any way, but analyze **how** the author gets that message across in the work. You may consider such devices as character actions, character relationships, tone, setting, language, choices, figures of speech, symbols, and descriptions or any rhetorical devices. These are not the only devices that you may choose to discuss in your essay. These are only suggestions. Keep this essay in 3rd person. This essay should be in MLA, and students may organize their writing as they wish. This analysis will be due on the first full day of class in eBackpack and will be worth 50 points.
3. Finally, read *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. Then, write a persuasive essay in which you identify the argument or arguments Capote makes in this book. Respond to his argument in the form of a multiple paragraph persuasive essay in which you either agree or disagree with a point he makes in the novel. Support your position with examples from the text. **You may not use any other sources for this paper.** Be sure to use 3rd person throughout. See below for additional specifications for this essay:
 - Length requirement: 900-1200 words. Papers that are less than 900 or more 1200 words will lose points.
 - The paper should include an introduction with a thesis statement as the last sentence, be developed through well organized body paragraphs, and end with a conclusion that summarizes the thesis statement and the main points of development. The paper should include an acknowledgement of an opposing view from your own (rebuttal).
 - Formatting and citations must be according to MLA. You should have a Works Cited page in which you properly cite Capote's book.
 - Persuasive writing is evidence based. It is not enough to simply give your opinion. Therefore, your paper should make good use of quotes and concrete examples from the novel to back up your thesis or central argument. **There must be a minimum of five quotes from the novel in your paper as supporting evidence. More should be used.** Outside sources may not be used.
 - The paper will be due **on the first day of class** and will be submitted through eBackpack.
 - The paper is worth a maximum of 100 points.