

Dear Incoming Student,

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. I am very pleased you have decided to be a part of this class. I expect you are a strong reader and writer who looks forward to a rigorous course that will ask you to think, create, reflect, and grow. I believe you all can do well on the AP exam given in the spring, provided you want to be a part of a community of learners.

Secondly, I want to make sure you know about the required reading for class. **You are required to read two books this summer:**

- 1) ***Brain Rules (Updated and Expanded): 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School* by John Medina** AND
- 2) **One more NONFICTION book of your choice**

I am including a suggested book list for your 2<sup>nd</sup> book, based off of recommendations from former AP Language students:

- Anything by Malcolm Gladwell: *Talking to Strangers, David and Goliath, Blink, The Tipping Point*
- Anything by Jon Krakauer: *Missoula, Under the Banner of Heaven, Into the Wild, Into Thin Air*
- Anything by Ta-Nehisi Coates: *Between the World and Me, The Beautiful Struggle, We Were Eight Years in Power*
- Anything by Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner *Freakonomics, SuperFreakonomics, Think Like a Freak*
- Anything by Adam Grant: *Think Again, Originals, Give and Take*
- Anything by Michael Pollan: *How to Change your Mind, Cooked, Food Rules, In Defense of Food, This is Your Mind on Plants*
- Anything by David Epstein: *The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance, Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*
- Anything by Mary Roach: *Fuzz, Grunt, Gulp, Stiff*
- Anything by Dave Cullen: *Columbine OR Parkland*
- Anything by Christopher McDougall: *Born to Run, Natural Born Heroes, Running with Sherman*
- Anything by Neil deGrasse Tyson: *Starry Messenger OR Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
- *Why We Sleep* by Matthew Walker
- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts* by Susan Cain
- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *Maid* by Stephanie Land
- *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande
- *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi
- *This is What it Sounds Like* by Susan Rogers and Ogi Ogas

You should lightly annotate the texts in order to **identify the author's central claims (as well as any bias)**. Be prepared for a reading comprehension quiz for *Brain Rules*, as well as a Socratic Seminar discussion for both books.

I really am looking forward to meeting you on the first day of class. I am excited to once again teach AP English Language and can't wait to work with you.

Your MHS AP Language Teacher