

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: *Revenge of the Tipping Point*, *Talking to Strangers*, *David & Goliath*, *Blink*
- 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 Message*, *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: *Hidden Potential*, *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*
- *The Anxious Generation* OR *The Coddling of the American Mind* by Jonathan Haidt
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
- *Why We Sleep* by Matthew Walker
- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts* OR *Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole* by Susan Cain
- *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
- *Burn Book: A Tech Love Story* by Kara Swisher
- *The Expectation Effect: How Your Mindset Can Change Your World* by David Robson
- *The Hot Hand* by Ben Cohen
- *Enlightenment Now* OR *Rationality* by Steven Pinker
- *Hooked: How to Build Habit-Forming Products* by Nir Eyal
- Anything by Yuval Noah Harari: *Sapiens*, *Homo Deus*, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, *Nexus*

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