

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: *Brain Rules* by John Medina and one more NONFICTION book of your choice.**

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

- Anything by Malcolm Gladwell: *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*
- Anything by Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner *Freakonomics, SuperFreakonomics, Think Like a Freak*
- Anything by Michael Pollan: *How to Change your Mind, Cooked, Food Rules, In Defense of Food*
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
- *Columbine* by Dave Cullen
- *The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance* by David Epstein
- *Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall
- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts* by Susan Cain
- *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil deGrasse Tyson
- *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr OR *Smarter Than You Think* by Clive Thompson (good pairing)
- *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character* by Paul Tough
- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater
- *In the Country we Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero
- *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande
- *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi
- *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Cahalan
- *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah
- *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

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 discussion and writing assignments 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

