

Welcome Scholars:

As you know an AP® class provides you the opportunity to have a college level course—with collegiate-level expectations—in high school. The AP® Language and Composition curriculum builds upon your skills as intentional readers, critical thinkers, and effective writers. The course expects you have had success in previous English courses and commit to doing rigorous course work. In order to “hit the ground running” this coming school year, you must complete a series of summer assignments. These include reading the novel *1984*, the non-fiction book *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, and reading, listening to, and watching a variety of articles, podcasts, and videos. Resources to assist you in this endeavor appear in Google Classroom—accessible with your millardps digital account. You will find digital versions of necessary documents in the “About” section of the classroom. I will use the stream to post additional materials over the summer, and I encourage you to use the Classroom tools to post questions, engage with each other, and share your findings and thoughts regarding the summer work.

Take the time to explore these assignments and complete the guided reading worksheets. Annotating these texts while you are reading will ensure you are working as a reflective learner and will help you remember your ideas and questions when we discuss them in class. Completion of these assignments will allow all of us to begin the class with a shared set of knowledge upon which to add content and to build new rhetorical and composition skills. Your data sheets and collected articles will be due the first day of the course. There will be an exam over the summer reading at the end of the first week of the course. Your in-depth understanding of these texts as individual works as well as ideas within a collection will increase your chances of success on the exam and throughout the semester. Additional inquiry reading and writing provoked by the summer assignment will facilitate your success in and contributions to the course.

As you read, think thematically. Understanding the world you inhabit and the various ways our histories, cultures, and learnings intersect and act and react on one another requires thinking critically about significant themes. The summer reading assignment offers you a number of lenses through which you might view and understand the texts you read and your relationships with them. Further, the readings and essays on the AP Lang National Exam draw from these themes. The more you consider them, the more likely your success on the test. The principal themes of the readings are:

Free Will & Human Rights  
Individuality & Belonging  
Freedom & Security  
Technology & Humanity

Sex, Gender, & Society  
History & Propaganda  
Heroes & Agendas  
The Power of Language & the Language of Power

To access the Summer Homework Materials, join the AP Language Summer Reading Google Classroom (Neat) using the classroom code: **slnt68k**. Classroom is only accessible from your millardps ID.

In order to support you during the summer, I encourage you post questions and observations you make about your summer assignments and to work collaboratively and cooperatively to understand your summer reading. The classroom forum is for academic discussion. The language you use should be appropriate to that purpose. Students are more successful in AP Lang when they help one another and creating a collaborative intellectual community.

Also, you should consider what these multiple reading assignments have to do with one another—these are not random titles. Of all the books and articles in the history of the world, ask yourselves “Why these titles? What do these articles and books have in common? What issues do they raise? Where do they agree or disagree? What would the authors talk about if they sat down together in the same room?”

If you have questions, feel free to contact me before the end of the school year. And don’t hesitate to email me over break.

The assignments described by this letter represent a minimum degree of reading and thinking prior to arriving in the course. The themes of the books and articles appear frequently in the AP Language & Composition National Exam and will form the foundation for much of class discussion throughout the course. We expect, as students enrolling in a college-level English and composition class, that you are already avid readers of fiction and non-fiction and that you pay attention to local, national, and global news. The above assignment simply focuses what we expect is your natural inclination to read and think in a particular direction.

## Assignments:

1. Read *1984* by George Orwell. Complete the *1984* Data Sheet.
  - a. We have copies of *1984* available for checkout, but we encourage you to purchase your own copy for the purposes of annotation.
2. Read *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen. Complete the *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Data Sheet.
  - a. We do not have copies of this book, but it is readily available at book retailers. You need to purchase your own copy.
3. Read, listen to, and/or watch the following and complete an Ancillary Source Data Sheet for each.
  - a. “The Multibillion Dollar US Spy Agency You Haven’t Heard Of”
    - i. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/03/20/the-multibillion-dollar-u-s-spy-agency-you-havent-heard-of-trump/>
  - b. “Oklahoma Legislature Targets AP US History Framework for Being 'Negative'”
    - i. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/02/23/oklahoma-legislature-targets-ap-us-history-framework-being-negative>
  - c. “60 Words”
    - i. <http://www.radiolab.org/story/60-words>
  - d. “Doublespeak in the New Economy”
    - i. [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/31/us/doublespeak-in-the-new-economy.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/31/us/doublespeak-in-the-new-economy.html?_r=0)
  - e. “Ivanka Trump’s Booining in Berlin Leaves Angela Merkel Red-Faced”
    - i. <http://time.com/4754369/ivanka-trump-boo-berlin-angela-merkel/>
  - f. “NSA Concedes Violating Surveillance Limits and Pledges Curbs on US Email Collection”
    - i. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/apr/28/nsa-stops-surveillance-us-residents-foreign-targets>
  - g. “Technology’s Epic Story”
    - i. [https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin\\_kelly\\_tells\\_technology\\_s\\_epic\\_story?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_kelly_tells_technology_s_epic_story?language=en)

The stories in many of the assigned articles will continue to develop. This assignment will necessarily be written before those particular stories have resolved. Tracking the development of these and similar news stories—and any other stories that remind you of your summer reading—will help you broaden and deepen your understanding of the course themes. In order to fully appreciate the assigned works, consider doing additional reading.

Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* offers an interesting counter-point to *1984*, and one worth exploring. These two novels often receive nods from contemporary cultural critics and being able to discuss both authors’ ideas will enhance your ability to comment on contemporary Western society. For another perspective, consider *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Malcolm Gladwell’s *David and Goliath* offers a more narrative and inquiry based-approach to many of the issues raised by *1984*, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, and the summer articles. *David and Goliath* will be a required class text during the AP Lang term, but there is no reason not to acquire and begin reading that text.

Happy Reading. And Thinking. And Writing.

Your Summer Homework is due the first day of the class.

You will need to submit a completed data sheet for *1984*, a completed data sheet for *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, a completed data sheet for each of the supplemental articles (7 in total).

Please put everything in a two-pocket folder with your name on the front cover.

Do not staple all of the materials into one packet. (You may staple the individual assignments.)

The exam over your summer reading will occur within the first 4-6 days of the course.

The exam includes a Multiple Choice test focusing on *1984*, and an essay exam that requires you to make connections across all of your reading. You will be allowed to use your summer reading data sheets during the essay portion of the exam. A thorough *1984* data sheet makes an excellent study guide for the multiple choice test.

Have Fun.

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