

## **Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment**

Congratulations on your decision to take the AP Language and Composition class!

If you would like additional information on the Advanced Placement program, go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html> for general information. For more specific information on the English Language & Composition test, go to [http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub\\_englang.html?englang](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_englang.html?englang)  
On this page, you can connect with even more specifics about the class and the test.

### **READING LIST**

- *THEY SAY I SAY: THE MOVES THAT MATTER IN ACADEMIC WRITING* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein     **You should have this available to use as a reference throughout the school year .**
  
- *The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot  
There is a specific annotation guide for this work (see below). You do not have a writing assignment over the summer but you will be required to write on a designated topic concerning this book; therefore, it is imperative that you annotate your book.

What does annotate mean?

To take notes while reading.

What is the point of annotation?

“First, what is the difference between annotating and “taking notes?” For some people, the difference is nonexistent or negligible, but in this instance I am referring to a way of making notes directly onto a text such as a book, a handout, or another type of publication. The advantage of having one annotated text instead of a set of note papers plus a text should be clear enough: all the information is together and inseparable, with notes very close to the text for easier understanding, and with fewer pieces to keep organized.

“What the reader gets from annotating is a deeper initial reading and an understanding of the text that lasts. You can deliberately engage the author in conversation and questions, maybe stopping to argue, pay a compliment, or clarify an important issue—much like having a teacher or storyteller with you in the room. If and when you come back to the book, that initial interchange is recorded for you, making an excellent and entirely personal study tool.”

--Nick Otten

- Annotation encourages you to read actively and thoughtfully.
- The reader gets a deeper initial reading and an understanding of the text that lasts
- Annotation provides you with a useful overview to consult before discussions or writing assignments.

**Important Caveat:** The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That’s the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter or other designated section, then go back and annotate.

## Reading and Annotation Instructions for the book you chose and the essays

**What should you annotate?** The possibilities are limitless. Your annotations **must include comments**. I want to see evidence of **thinking**. Here are some ideas about what you can annotate:

1. **Vocabulary:** circle words you want to learn or words that jump out at you for some reason. You don't have to write out a full dictionary definition; it is actually more helpful to put the definition into your own words.
2. **Make connections** to movies, news events, other texts, & your life
3. Something that **intrigues, impresses, amuses, shocks, puzzles, disturbs, repulses, aggravates**, etc.
4. Mark & comment on passages you think are especially **significant, powerful, or meaningful**.
5. Express **agreement or disagreement**.
6. Make **predictions**.
7. Note anything you would like to know more about or **do not understand**.
8. Intriguing sentence patterns

### Scoring Rubric

**A Grade:** Annotations are reflective, purposeful and thoughtful. Annotations are spread evenly throughout the entire book. Annotations clearly reveal your thought process.

**B Grade:** Annotations are evident throughout most of the text. Annotations may lack reflection, purpose or thoughtfulness. Annotations do not clearly reveal your thought process.

**C Grade:** Annotations are sporadic, incomplete and/or do not reveal evidence of effort, thought or purpose throughout the text.

**Grades Lower Than a C** - will reflect a lack of reading, possibly in skipped sections or random annotations of insignificant material.

**Zero** – assignment not done