

AP Language & Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2024-2025

Mr. Ritchey & Mr. Rye

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Due Date: September 3, 2024 OR as dictated by the school – BOTH SEMESTERS - No late work will be accepted.

A. Read chapters 1-5, 8, and 11 of the following book. (Although the rest of the book is not required for your summer reading assignment, you are encouraged to **complete the reading in full**; it is an excellent introduction to the foundations of AP English Language and Composition.)

Heinrichs, Jay. *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us about the Art of Persuasion*. New York: Three Rivers, 2017. Print.

You are encouraged to buy this book “used,” but it is not required. When you purchase the book, you must make sure that you are purchasing the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th edition. Below you will find the ISBN for the book so that you can make sure you purchase the correct edition.

3rd edition ISBN: 9780141986166

4th edition ISBN: 9780593237380

B. Summer Reading Assignment

You must complete each of the following tasks for each of the assigned chapters (1-5, 8, 11) of *Thank You for Arguing*. Be sure to respond to each task thoroughly and completely; your responses will count as a test grade for first term. You should make sure your ideas are both organized and presented clearly and thoroughly. Please keep in mind that this is an AP class; therefore, I expect **well-developed** responses. If you pace yourself over the summer, this assignment will not be overly laborious.

Note: It is expected that you complete your summer assignments individually. Although you may struggle, put forth your best effort and make sure that you complete all of what is detailed below. Coming in with incomplete work and claiming, “I didn’t get it,” is unacceptable.

For this summer reading assignment, you will be relating what Heinrichs discusses throughout his text with real-life examples of rhetorical concepts. That is, you will need to (1) choose a rhetorical concept from each chapter—yes, you may choose what you write about— (2) find a real-life example of an orator/author exemplifying the concept of your choice, and (3) finish the assignment by explaining how the example exhibits the concept. If this sounds a little confusing, read the following directions.

What to Do: Complete the following tasks and make sure that your products look like the examples provided. In the end, you will have completed the following steps a total of thirteen times.

- 1. Choose** any rhetorical concept that Heinrichs explores in **each** of the assigned chapters of the book. You have free reign here. Identify the chapter and the concept on which you would like to focus. In the end, you will have gone through this process **SEVEN times**.

E.g.

Chapter 3: Arguing with Past-Tense Verbs

2. **Summarize**—do *not* directly quote—the concept as presented in the text and follow that summary with a **parenthetical citation**. Follow this format: summary of concept in your OWN words (**Heinrichs page#**).

E.g.

Forensic rhetoric relies on past-tense verbs. It usually places blame on an individual (**Heinrichs 28-29**).

Note: After I summarized the concept, I added the parenthetical citation BEFORE I added a period to the sentence. Also notice how I spelled Heinrichs' name correctly, and I did not put anything between Heinrichs' last name and the page number: no pg., no comma, no pound sign (hashtag), or anything of the like. If you make any of these simple mistakes—a misspelled last name, a period before the parentheses, anything between the last name and page number—you will lose credit.

3. **Find** a real-world example of the concept in action—please note, however, your example must be text-based; no pictures or visuals. (You may use speeches, but you must make sure they have transcripts so you can copy the text from it.) **Copy the text that illustrates your concept of focus and follow it with an MLA Works Cited entry.**

E.g.

“Good morning, everybody. At midnight last night, for the first time in 17 years, Republicans in Congress chose to shut down the federal government. Let me be more specific: One faction, of one party, in one house of Congress, in one branch of government, shut down major parts of the government -- all because they didn't like one law. This Republican shutdown did not have to happen. But I want every American to understand why it did happen. Republicans in the House of Representatives refused to fund the government unless we defunded or dismantled the Affordable Care Act. They've shut down the government over an ideological crusade to deny affordable health insurance to millions of Americans. In other words, they demanded ransom just for doing their job.”

Obama, Barack. "Statement on the U.S. Government Shutdown." American Rhetoric, 2 Oct. 2013, <https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barackobama/barackobamagovernmentshutdown.htm>. Accessed 15 May 2024.

Research Hints:

- A. Most rhetorical concepts in *Thank You for Arguing* are common moves of good authors and orators. Many speeches, articles, and/or advertisements include most of what Heinrichs details in his book. So, if you can find one or two speeches or articles that exhibit characteristics found in all assigned chapters—which I am sure you can—**feel free to use examples from those one or two works throughout this entire assignment. You do not need to use 7 different works**—one for each chapter—for this assignment. Please also note that you may not use any real-world examples that Heinrichs provides in his book as your example of choice when completing step 3. You may pull examples from your own reading, or you may want to find your examples at the following website: www.AmericanRhetoric.com
- B. Many of you may have never created a citation for an MLA Works Cited page before; we get it. However, you will still need to try to cite all of your information accurately. (You

may not even know what an MLA Works Cited entry is. If you look at my example above, it's the section of text that begins with "Obama, Barack.") There is an abundance of information regarding citations floating around on the internet, so quick searches will help you find what you need to do. Also, we strongly suggest that you use the following websites to help you with your formatting:

- General Format:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_format.html
- Books:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_books.html
- Periodicals (Print Articles):
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_periodicals.html
- Page on a Web Site (Electronic Sources):
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html
- Other (Speeches, Interviews, etc.):
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_other_common_sources.html

4. **Last**, for each chapter, you must explain how the example you find relates to the rhetorical concept of the chapter on which you are focusing. These explanations should be at least four (4) sentences, and better explanations will attempt to explain why and how the author uses the rhetorical concept of focus. Don't forget, one concept per assigned chapter = completing this task 7 times.

E.g.

In the example from President Obama's address about the government shutdown, he consistently presents past-tense verbs such as chose, refused, demanded, etc. The purpose of such is to vilify the Republicans of the House in the presence of the public. Once the blame is placed on those individuals, it is the hope of Obama that the general public will demand social justice from those who represent them. In his blame, he paints those who instigated the shut down as individuals who are obstinate and unconcerned with the general healthcare of Americans. In fact, these representatives seem mostly apathetic towards those they represent. Furthermore, in blaming the Republicans, Obama makes himself—and his party—seem more innocent in the escalation of events that led to a government shutdown.

Below is a **complete** example of what you need to do for each chapter: (Your work should be formatted exactly like this!!!!!!)

1. Chapter 3: Arguing with Past-Tense Verbs

2. Forensic rhetoric relies on past tense verbs. It usually places blame on an individual (Heinrichs 28-29).

3. *“Good morning, everybody. At midnight last night, for the first time in 17 years, Republicans in Congress chose to shut down the federal government. Let me be more specific: One faction, of one party, in one house of Congress, in one branch of government, shut down major parts of the government -- all because they didn’t like one law. This Republican shutdown did not have to happen.*

But I want every American to understand why it did happen. Republicans in the House of Representatives refused to fund the government unless we defunded or dismantled the Affordable Care Act. They’ve shut down the government over an ideological crusade to deny affordable health insurance to millions of Americans. In other words, they demanded ransom just for doing their job.”

Obama, Barack. “Statement on the U.S. Government Shutdown.” American Rhetoric, 2 Oct. 2013, <https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/barackobama/barackobamagovernmentshutdown.htm>. Accessed 15 May 2024.

4. *In the example from President Obama’s address about the government shutdown, he consistently presents past tense verbs such as chose, refused, demanded, etc. The purpose of such is to vilify the Republicans of the House in the presence of the public. Once the blame is placed on those individuals, it is the hope of Obama that the general public will demand social justice from those who represent them. In his blame, he paints those who instigated the shut down as individuals who are obstinate and unconcerned with the general healthcare of all individuals. In fact, these representatives seem mostly apathetic towards those they represent. Furthermore, in blaming the Republicans, Obama makes himself—and his party—seem more innocent in the escalation of events that have led to a government shutdown.*

C. Words of Wisdom from the Ghosts of Students Past

- Be prepared to have your minds blown week after week.
- Really work with your teacher. He is a library of knowledge and wealth of information. He is dedicated to you, the student, ensuring your mastery in Language Arts and mastery against the Dark Arts.
- Relax and enjoy the ride.
- Make sure all of your work is “good.”
- You’ll hate it and love it.
- Your AP Lang teacher prepares you immensely for the exam and you will go in confident! It’s all worth it.
- Study to remember, not to memorize. This isn’t a course in which you take a test and move on.
- Everything you will do builds upon what comes before it.
- Take the class and the learning environment seriously, don’t worry about the numerical grade. Worry about what you actually LEARN from the class.
- Make sure you fight for your “write” to get 5s on your exam.
- Be ready to think. This class is more than just an English writing class; you will really develop your thoughts and learn a lot about your identity as a thinker.
- No matter how great you did last year, accept and submit to the colossal butt-kicking AP is going to put you through, and always put forth your best efforts even though it’s tough.
- Don’t stress—Do your work—Take notes—Ask questions!
- Pay attention. Do your homework. Work hard. Have fun.