

AP Language and Composition (11th)
Summer 2017
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“The understanding of art depends finally upon one’s willingness to extend one’s humanity and one’s knowledge of human life” (Ralph Ellison).

The Advanced Placement (AP) course offered at the junior level is comprised of an intensive study of language and composition. It is designed to challenge college-bound students, who have demonstrated verbal proficiency and critical thinking skills, to reach their highest potential. A student may receive college credit in English when he or she enters college if a score of 3, 4, or 5 is earned on the AP examination in English Language and Composition (The Collegeboard AP English Course Description). This course will culminate in all students taking the AP examination in May.

This course is designed to prepare you for success in college. So, in order to hone in on your skills over the summer, please journey into the recommended summer assignment below.

Expectation #1:

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison: It is strongly recommended that students **read** this novel prior to the first day of school. There will be a test and writing assignment at the beginning of the school year on *Invisible Man*. Students will be expected to be able to fully participate in all activities that focus on *Invisible Man* beginning the **third week of school**. It is not necessary to annotate every page, but you can simply question the material. Utilize post-it notes to highlight sections of specific interest within the novel.

I look forward to working with each of you this coming year. Enjoy your summer and this wonderful novel.

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Annotating Texts

AP Language and Composition

Annotating simply means marking the page as you read with comments and/or notes.

The main reason you should annotate your books is to aid in understanding. When important passages occur, mark them so that they can be easily located when it comes time to write an essay or respond to the book. Marking key ideas will enable you to discuss the reading with more support, evidence, and/or proof than if you rely on memory.



ANNOTATING MAY INCLUDE:

- Highlighting key words, phrases, or sentences
- Writing questions or comments in the margins
- Bracketing important ideas or passages
- Connecting ideas with lines or arrows
- Highlighting passages that are important to understanding the work
- Circling or highlighting words that are unfamiliar

SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR ANNOTATION MIGHT INCLUDE:

- Character description
- Literary elements (symbolism, theme, foreshadowing, etc.)
- Figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.)
- Plot elements (setting, mood, conflict, etc.)
- Diction (effective or unusual word choices)
- Vocabulary words

HOW TO ANNOTATE A TEXT

- **Highlighting/Underlining**—This stands out from the page and allows you to scan a page quickly for information. Be careful not to mark too much. If everything is marked, then nothing becomes important.
- **Brackets []**—If several lines seem important, place a bracket around the passage, then highlight or underline only key phrases within the bracketed area. This will draw attention to the passage without cluttering it with too many highlighted or underlined sentences.
- **Asterisks *** --This indicates something unusual, special or important. Multiple asterisks indicate a stronger degree of importance.
- **Marginal Notes**—Making notes in the margins allow you to interact with the text: Ask questions, label literary elements, summarize critical elements, explain ideas, make a comment, and/or identify characters.