

11th grade A.P. Language and Composition Summer Reading

1. ***The Road to Character***, by David Brooks (ISBN 978-0812993257)

This reading should be accompanied by a thoughtful “personal response” (**not** to be confused with a simple summary) of at least 1 typed page per chapter. For example, do you agree with what Brooks writes? Why/why not? Does Brooks force you to re-think any belief system you have? Is there a place for Brooks’ beliefs in 2016 America? Carefully support your thoughts/observations/assertions with specific references to Brooks’ text. It will be very important for you to annotate this text as you read and to return to your annotations as you craft your responses. Please make sure your personal responses show all the signs of careful composition and revision, and that what you write is intentional, directed, and informed. These responses will represent your first substantial grade of the year and will be collected on the first day of classes. Late submissions will be penalized.

2. ***The Great Depression – A Diary***, by Benjamin Roth (ISBN: 978-1586489014)

This reading should be accompanied by an essay (minimum 2-3 typed pages) that focuses on the evolution of Benjamin Roth, the man whose journals make up this book. In particular, focus on the changes that take place in Roth (psychologically, intellectually, personally) over the course of the entries and what the factors were that precipitated these changes. It will be very important for you to annotate this text as you read and to return to your annotations as you craft your essay. Please make sure this essay shows all the signs of careful composition and revision, and that what you write is intentional, directed, and informed. This essay will represent your first substantial grade of the year and will be collected on the first day of classes. Late submissions will be penalized.

3. ***Travels With Charley***, by John Steinbeck (ISBN: 978-0140053203)

This reading should be accompanied by a 2-3 page typed essay that compares and contrasts the America Steinbeck experiences in his travels over 50 years ago with the America we experience today. Please be organized and specific with regard to your comparisons and contrasts, but remember to have some fun with the essay, too (after all, much of what Steinbeck experiences is heartwarming and funny). It will be very important for you to annotate this text as you read and to return to your annotations as you craft your essay. Please make sure this essay shows all the signs of careful composition and revision, and that what you write is intentional, directed, and informed. This essay will represent your first substantial grade of the year and will be collected on the first day of classes. Late submissions will be penalized.