**TWO TASKS FOR AP LANGUAGE SUMMER READING**

1. **Read Jay Heinrich’s Thank You for Arguing.** This is a reference book on how to argue effectively. Annotate as you read.

2. **Select a Memoir from the following list. Choose a book that interests you.**

Choose book from the list below, or another of comparable difficulty (books off the list must receive teacher approval).

**Books with a “+” are mature and may need parent approval.**

Once you begin your book, annotate carefully for the following:

- Mark significant events, turning points, and examples of reflection.
- Mark specific examples of DIDLS in each chapter. (See DIDLS)

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*All Over But the Shoutin’* – Bragg +

*My Own Country* – Verghese +

*The Men We Reaped*, Jessymyn Ward +

*Hillbilly Elegy*– Vance

*Uneducated*, Westover

*Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray

*The Glass Castle– Walls* +

*Half-Broke Horses– Walls +*

*A Long Way Gone – Beah +

*A Rumor of War*– Caputo +

*The Color of Water*– McBride +

*Truth and Beauty* – Patchett +

*My Losing Season* – Conroy

*The Water is Wide – Conroy–love!*

*The Color of the Sea –Hamahura*

*I am is for Hawk – Macdonald*

*Becoming – Obama*

They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan  Ajak  excellent account

The Last True Story I’ll Ever Tell, Crawford Always Running, Rodriguez

*When I Was Puerto Rican, Santiago*

*God Grew Tired of Us*: John Bul Dau

Escape from Saddam: The Incredible True Story of One Man’s Journey to Freedom  Alsamari

Ecology of a Cracker Childhood – Ray +

The Lazy B – Sandra Day O’Connor

Joe Gould’s Secret – Mitchell +

The Places in Between – Stewart +

The Accidental Asian - Liu

Writer recalls how her coming of age in poverty in South Georgia led to her career in ecology.

The first woman Supreme Court justice recalls her coming of age on a cattle ranch.

The author’s friendship with a Harvard-educated street person in New York

An adventurer recounts his walking journey across Afghanistan days after the Taliban fell.

A former Presidential speechwriter explores his identity as a Chinese American

More Titles—classics/more challenging

*Angela’s Ashes – McCourt +


The Opposite of Fate – Amy Tan

*Dreams From My Father – Obama*

Faith of My Fathers – McCain

Black Boy – Wright+

Autobiography of Malcolm X – Haley +

Life on the Mississippi - Twain

The Hiding Place – ten Boom

Dust Tracks on a Road – Hurston +

Hunger of Memory – Rodriguez+

Wait Till Next Year – Goodwin +

An American Childhood – Dillard

A writer recalls his poverty-stricken Irish childhood.

Lit professor Nafisi returns to her native Iran and teaches Western books to her female students

A highly acclaimed author reflects on her experiences leading to her writing life

The mixed-race senator’s recollection of his youth and young adulthood.

Senator and war-hero recounts achievements of his military ancestors & his experiences as a PO

The celebrated black novelist tells of is childhood in the South of the 20s and 30s.

The odyssey of the famous black militant

The novelist’s memoir of his days as a riverboat pilot.

A Dutch woman’s account of her family’s efforts to save Jews from the Nazis.

Hurston’s rise from childhood poverty in Florida to literary prominence in Harlem.

A Latino writer recalls the cultural conflict he felt during his school years.

A historian recalls how passion for baseball brought her closer to her father.

A celebrated woman writer recalls her youth in Pittsburgh.
DIDLS Prose Analysis Method

Just as each of us has a particular, unique way of presenting ourselves, writers have unique ways of presenting themselves. Our personalities shine through the way we talk, the words we choose, the gestures we use, the clothes we wear. A writer has only language to express his/her personality. The qualities below are the basic elements of a writer's style. Pick them out and add them up to figure out theme and attitude. Use them to support your TS when you write.

**D** iction – The author’s choice of words and their connotations.

What words does the author choose? Consider his/her word choice compared to another. Why did the author choose that particular word? What are the connotations of that word choice? What effect do these words have on your mood as a reader? What do they seem to indicate about the author’s tone?

E.g. Author 1: Bill was *unintelligent*. (relatively neutral, as far as lack of intelligence goes)
E.g. Author 2: Bill was a *zipperhead*. (less of a low IQ, more like someone who acts like an idiot)

**I** mages – The use of descriptions that appeal to sensory experience.

What images does the author use? What does he/she focus on in a sensory way? The kinds of images the author puts in or leaves out reflect his/her style? Are they vibrant? Prominent? Plain? What effect do these images have on your mood as a reader? What do they seem to indicate about the author’s tone? NOTE: Images differ from details in the degree to which they appeal to the senses.

**D** etails – Facts that are included or those that are omitted.

What details are does the author choose to include? What do they imply? What does the author choose to exclude? What are the connotations of their choice of details? What effect do these included and excluded details have on your mood as a reader? What do these included and excluded details seem to indicate about the author’s tone? PLEASE NOTE: Details are facts or fact-lets. They differ from images in that they don’t have a strong sensory appeal.

E.g. An author describing a battlefield might include details about the stench of rotting bodies or he might not.

**L** anguage – Characteristics of the body of words used; terms like slang, formal, clinical, scholarly, and jargon denote language.


E.g. This is the step I’m most apt to skip.

**S** entence Structure – The fashion in which the sentences are constructed.

What are the sentences like? Are they simple with one or two clauses? Do they have multiple phrases? Are they choppy? Flowing? Sinuous like a snake? Is there antithesis, chiasmus, parallel construction? What emotional impression do they leave? If we are talking about poetry, what is the meter? Is there a rhyme scheme? What effect do these structures have on your mood as a reader? What do these structures to indicate about the author’s tone? PLEASE NOTE: Short = emotional or assertive; longer = reasonable or scholarly.