

# AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

**Instructor:** Mr. Justin P. O'Connor, M.A.T., B.A.

**Email:** [joconnor@centralcatholics.com](mailto:joconnor@centralcatholics.com)

**Phone:** 412.208.3460

## Summer Reading List

Choose two from each column:

*The Invisible Man*  
- Ralph Ellison

*Native Son*  
- Richard Wright

*Beloved*  
- Toni Morrison

*No-No Boy*  
- John Okada

*The Grapes of Wrath*  
- John Steinbeck

*My Ántonia*  
- Willa Cather

*The Man in the High Castle*  
- Philip K. Dick

*The Normal Heart and the Destiny of Me*  
- Larry Kramer

*Catch-22*  
- Joseph Heller

## Summer Writing Assignment:

1. You have six texts to read. Please utilize four of the texts as evidentiary and analytical support in an argumentative essay of no less than 1000 words that provides an answer to the following question:

**What is the essential nature of the American experience?**

2. Choose one of the remaining two texts that you read; you should prioritize the text that you believe offers the most intriguing and/or compelling answer to the question which you answered in your first essay. In an essay of no less than 1000 words you must take an argumentative stance on what it presents as the essential nature of the American experience and methodically analyze *how* the text conveys this stance on the American experience. Please be sure to consider the writer's personal background, intended audience, the time period in which the text was written, possible purpose(s) the text might serve, and any rhetorical or symbolic devices that may be at work in the text that you have chosen.

3. For the last remaining book of the six required texts, please write a persuasive essay of at least 750 words as to why it is (or is not, your call) representative of the essential nature of the American experience. If the latter, please suggest an alternative text and make a case for its merits in relationship to the question of American identity and experience.

**All assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com by 2359 on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Late assignments will not be considered for credit.**

## **Key Terms**

Learn and define each of the following terms. Submit a typed, numbered list of definitions with an original and preferably humorous example of its usage to the instructor on Upperclassmen Orientation Day in hardcopy (August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Late assignments will not be considered for credit.

- Diction
- Syntax
- Style
- Tone
- Point of View
- Rhetoric
- Logos
- Ethos
- Pathos
- Figurative Language
- Imagery
- Hyperbole
- Understatement
- Simile
- Metaphor
- Extended Metaphor
- Symbol
- Denotation
- Connotation
- Oxymoron
- Paradox
- Personification
- Rhetorical Question
- Bombast
- Pun
- Metonymy
- Synecdoche
- Theme
- Aphorism
- Malapropism
- Circumlocution
- Euphemism
- Irony
- Sarcasm
- Situational Irony
- Satire