

# Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2020

## Assignment Overview:

- The summer reading assignment for students enrolled in the AP Language and Composition course for the 2020-21 school year requires students to read and analyze two (2) pieces of nonfiction: Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* and Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*.
- Titles are hyperlinked to Amazon, but copies may be obtained via booksellers and local libraries. While I recommend obtaining hard copies for active reading, these texts are available in digital formats or may also be found online as PDFs. You will need access to the texts for the first two weeks of school as they will be used as part of an introductory unit.

### **Task 1: Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft***

- Read and annotate [Stephen King's \*On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft\*](#), which is the author's discussion of his experience as an author as well as a reflection on effective writing (at least according to King). As you read, note passages that you find particularly meaningful, insightful, useful, etc. in preparation for the two related assignments for this text.
- **ASSIGNMENT 1:** Actively read King's text as a conversation with you as a student of writing. Take note of his observations and guidance (in other words, annotate as you read). Complete the [Aha! Moments](#) chart using 5 of the *most significant passages* from your reading. See the directions on that sheet for more information.
- **ASSIGNMENT 2:** Given the Aha! Moments you have selected, compose a reflective journal (approximately two pages) that considers the following:
  - How does King's ideas about writing reflect your strengths and weaknesses as a writer?
  - What writing tools would you like to fit into your "toolbox"? Be sure to explain why you've identified these tools.
  - Set at least two writing goals for yourself in order to strengthen your writing skills and/or style. Be sure to explain your rationale for these goals.
- These assignments are due via Google Classroom by **August 17, 2020**. I will post an assignment for your submission on the Classwork page of the Summer site. See below for the join code.

### **Task 2: *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich**

- Read and annotate [Barbara Ehrenreich's \*Nickel and Dimed\*](#). After you read, compose responses to the following prompts. Responses should *cite specific evidence* from the text to support your assertions. All responses are to be uploaded (in a single document) to turnitin.com by **August 31, 2020**.
- Response Prompts:
  1. Critically analyze the guidelines Ehrenreich establishes for herself in the experiment (i.e. what she would and would not do). What effect do these guidelines have on the author's "experiment"? How realistic are these goals for people working below a minimum wage?
  2. Discuss how and why Ehrenreich uses personal narratives in *Nickel and Dimed*. Focus on one such example from the book, and analyze the author's purpose in telling this individual's story.
  3. At the onset of her Evaluation chapter, Ehrenreich seems to arrive at a new understanding of the phrase "unskilled labor" (193). Explain and analyze this new understanding. Then, discuss why Ehrenreich refers to low-wage workers, at the close of her book, as "the major philanthropists of our society" (221).

### Formatting Guidelines

- When appropriate, your responses should be **double-spaced** using size **12 Times New Roman** font. The double-spacing does not apply to the Aha Moments chart.
- Always support your assertions with evidence from the text. Quotations should be formatted according to **MLA** guidelines, especially as it concerns pagination.
- Be sure to include your last name and the page number in the upper right-hand corner of the header of each page of your document.
- Click [HERE](#) for the holistic rubric that will be used to assess your submitted work.
- Work not submitted by the due dates will incur a **late penalty**.

### Communication Methods

- This course will utilize several methods of communication in addition to scheduled class meetings. Students should contact me via email ([schofieldd@lincolnps.org](mailto:schofieldd@lincolnps.org)) with any questions about the assignments described in this document.
- Upon receipt of this assignment sheet, students enrolled in the course should log in to the following mediums of communication. We will use these mediums to correspond throughout the summer as well as the school year.
  - **Google Classroom:** Join the Summer Google Classroom using the following code: **h5uvwgn**.
  - **Turnitin:** Go to [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) to create an account if you do not already have one. The Class ID is **25172417** and the enrollment password is Schofield. This password is case sensitive.
  - **Remind:** Text [@bbkh4f](https://www.remind.com) to 81010 to receive periodic text messages regarding assignments, reminders, and updates over the summer and throughout the year.