

## AP English Language (Juniors)/English 161-162 - Summer Assignment for 2019-20

This course requires that you read and write at a college level. As it is a composition course, writing will often be the focus. However, without an excellent capacity to read, you will not be able to write to the standards of the class. To prepare for the class, you must read, comprehend, and analyze the following works. Please note that the due dates for readings and assignments are staggered throughout September.

**The wise student would plan ahead and complete the readings and assignments during the glorious months of summer so as not to be overwhelmed during the notoriously challenging month of September.**

Do not use study aids such as Sparknotes, etc. The purpose of an AP and/or college course is to teach YOU to read, analyze, and write, not to read the explanations and analysis of others. Train your brain.

If you have questions, contact me at [pgraves@vermilionschools.org](mailto:pgraves@vermilionschools.org) or 419 433-0914.

And now for the assignment...

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### Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

This play is a classic example of 20th century drama and one of the best known works of the American stage. Although Miller wrote the work in response to the Red Scare of the 1950s, he set his play during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The setting allowed him to comment about rampant and unfounded accusations without directly addressing the occurrences of the 1950s.

Essay topic: Write a 3 page paper in MLA format addressing the following question. In a morality play, characters are intended to dramatize Good and Evil. In what ways is *The Crucible* a morality play? Think about what certain characters represent. How do we know they are Good or Evil? What is Miller's intention in creating his characters in such a way? Use specific evidence from the play (citations!) to support your essay.

**The essay is due on Wednesday, September 4. You must have a printed copy and submit to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) on the due date. Additionally, expect a test on this play on Thursday, September 5.**

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### Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

This award-winning, non-fiction book explores America's relationship with food. Pollan studies and exposes the complex issues of production and consumption of food in America. This is a thoroughly researched, well-crafted, and substantial work; yet, it is also accessible to the high school reader if you take the time to read carefully and engage with the text. Critical reading is a necessary college skill. Learn to do it now. We will be learning the valuable skills of reader response (see attached page) and summary using this book.

**Tuesday, September 10 – Reader Response due for “Our National Eating Disorder” (pages 1-11)**

**Thursday, September 12 – Reader Response due for “Industrial Corn” (pages 15-119)**

Summary One – Date to be determined in class (do not write this in the summer)

Thursday, September 19 – Reader Response due for chapters 8 and 9 (pages 124-184) (do not write this in the summer)

Tuesday, September 24 – Reader Response due for chapters 10-14 (pages 185-273) (do not write this in the summer)

Summary Two – Date to be determined in class (do not write this in the summer)

**What to do this summer for the *Omnivore's Dilemma*:**

1. Read pages 1-119 carefully and write the Reader Responses (instructions on the attached page) for those sections. You should annotate your text and take notes (active reading).
2. Skim/Familiarize yourself with pages 124-273. You will need to re-read it carefully after the school year starts.

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Steven Millhauser's *Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer*

You will find attached to this page a guide, which includes a number of items to look for in the novel. When you encounter one of the items, **highlight** the area in the book, **record** the page number on the sheet, and **explain** the significance of the item on that particular page.

For instance, the Brooklyn Bridge is one of the repeated motifs in the book. When the bridge appears in the book, highlight it and note the page number. Now, attempt to figure out why the bridge appears on that page. What does it mean within the context of the novel or to the character?

**The book is complex.** After finishing it for the first time, you will need to go back through to understand the novel completely. We will spend time discussing it, and I expect you to participate. **Novel reading and guide are due on Monday, September 30; however, read the book in the summer.**

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**A final note: By enrolling in this course, you have committed to the work load. The summer assignment is a vital part of being successful.**