

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! Much of this course will involve studying the ways in which an author can connect to his or her reader, forming compelling arguments using evidence from a text, and establishing a strong connection between a reader and a work of literature. There are two summer assignments for completion.

Assignment #1 – James Campbell’s *Braving It: A Father, A Daughter, and an Unforgettable Journey into the Alaskan Wild*

This memoir, published in 2012, tells of the author’s experiences in the Alaskan wilderness with his fifteen-year old daughter. The father-daughter tandem embarks on a series of adventures, trading the comforts of their home in Lodi, Wisconsin, for the beauty – and danger – of the Yukon. Along the way Campbell and Aidan learn much about life, the wilderness, and each other.

In the closing paragraph of his prologue, Campbell writes, “My greatest hope for Aidan [his daughter] was that her encounter with a new world, especially a wild one, would be one of the defining moments of her life – that the Alaskan Arctic would knee her out of her comfort zone and, simultaneously, throw her for a joyful loop.” Choose two separate strategies that Campbell employs as a means of capturing and bringing to life this personal memoir, and analyze their presence in the text. How, in essence, does the author breathe life into this narrative?

This essay should not extend beyond two pages, and should not use extensive quotations from the text. Should you wish to use quotations, limit yourself to one quotation per body paragraph, and be certain that you both cite the quotations in the proper MLA format and use the quotations for a larger purpose.

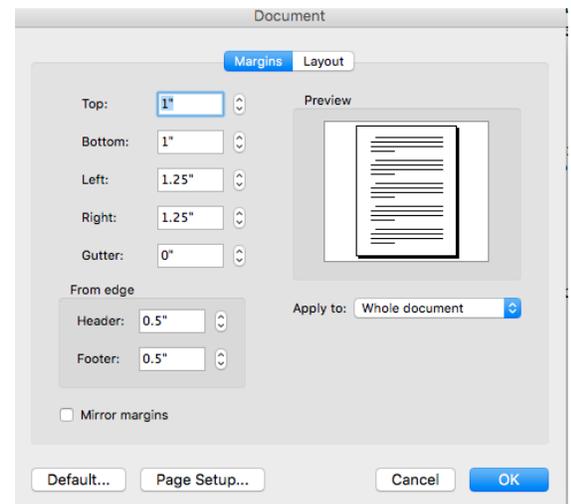
The written response will be collected on the first day of class, and will be submitted to turnitin.com that night. Remember that the work you submit should be original and unique; it is expected that you read the text and write the paper without any assistance, as any instances of plagiarism will result in all parties receiving a 0 for the assignment. No outside sources should be consulted on this assignment.

Any take-home assignments for this course should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced, and with margins of 1” top and bottom, and 1.25” left and right; see the graphic on this page for details. *These settings are the default settings for Microsoft Word 2003, and can be found: Format -> Document*

Rather than manipulate the page settings, ask yourself what extraneous information, wording, phrasing, or quotations might be removed to make the essay more concise and to the point.

The double-spacing should not contain extra spacing between paragraphs. The work will be submitted to turnitin.com, but should also be printed out prior to the first day of school.

Points will be deducted for late assignments and those that do not meet the stated requirements.



Assignment #2 – F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* and literary criticism

As you read the novel, you should consider not only the plot, but also the structure of the text. Consider the ways in which the author captures a scene, constructs a narrative flow, and fosters the reader’s interest in the novel as a whole. You may consider making note of passages that seem particularly interesting, but be sure that you are looking beneath the surface.

You will find that conducting a close reading of the text is essential for this course; students in AP English courses should not need to use Spark Notes or any other resources, even if used after doing the reading itself.

The literary criticism should only be read upon completion of the novel. As you know, criticism is not offering a negative perspective on a text – it is another author presenting a critical analysis of a work of literature. Annotating the text is certainly advisable, as it will help you keep track of and organize your thoughts as you read.

You will be assessed on the novel in early September. The assessment will include both a written component and multiple choice questions based on passages from the novel and/or the articles of criticism. This assessment is primarily skill-based, and will gauge your interaction with the texts at hand; the multiple choice questions will be less of the “recall” style, and will instead assess your understanding of a passage. The written component will ask you to reflect upon a topic from the novel and/or article(s) of criticism.