

AP Language and Composition
2023-2024 Summer Reading Assignment
Due date: Friday, August 11, 2023

Selected text:

Heinrichs, Jay. *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About Persuasion*. Broadway Books, ISBN#978-0-593-23738-0 (There are several editions, and we prefer that you purchase the **4th edition**).

Summer assignment:

- 1) Focus your reading on the first 14 chapters of the text (the first 159 pages). You may, of course, continue reading, but your assignment will focus on these chapters.
- 2) Heinrichs introduces his reader to rhetorical concepts and terms through the lens of argument. In the process, he integrates elevated diction and significant allusions. Your assignment will be to *focus* on these elements as you read each chapter.
- 3) As you read, annotate significant passages, words, and phrases. Be SURE to note any vocabulary with which you are unfamiliar. (Vocabulary is KEY to this course.)
- 4) For each chapter, you are then **required to document three elements**. You may write your responses on a notecard for each chapter or on a sheet of notebook paper, but *your answers MAY NOT BE TYPED*.
 - a) a 2-3 sentence summary of the chapter (What is this chapter about? Does it focus on a rhetorical device? An argumentative strategy? An appeal to audience? The importance of diction?)
 - b) *one term* introduced in the chapter (relating to rhetorical analysis or argument) AND *the definition of that term* (found contextually or in a dictionary)
 - c) a literary, historical, or cultural allusion made in the chapter AND an explanation of the purpose of that allusion

***To model what your assignment should look like, here is a sample response for Chapter 5:

- a) Ch. 5 focuses on the concept of rhetorical decorum, the ability to meet an audience's expectations. If a speaker is to be effective, he/she must be able to gauge the audience in order to meet/match expectations. The more effective the speech, the more effective the argument.
- b) ethos-appeal to credibility; literally, ethics
- c) Eminem-a renowned rapper, helps to demonstrate the concept of decorum, the central idea of the chapter; if you know who Eminem is, it explains this perfectly

You will be assessed on the quality of your chapter summaries, and the information you collect will be the foundation for the analysis of texts throughout the year. Again, this assignment is DUE on Friday, August 11, 2023.