

3AP English Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2021

Welcome to 3AP! We look forward to the year ahead; this course not only offers a challenging, thoughtful, and inquisitive language experience, but it also serves to provide a strong foundation for the types of reading and writing you will do in college.

To that end, we have designed assignments to prepare you to begin your exploration of English Language and Composition. Please note that this assignment has two separate components, neither of which is optional. You must complete all questions and have each one typed, printed, and ready to be submitted on the first day of class in September.

It should go without saying that all work must be entirely your own; this is not a collaborative assignment nor is it one that necessitates any type of sourcing or Internet research. Any findings of academic dishonesty, whether intentional or unintentional, will be considered plagiarism and will result in penalties as indicated by the Kennedy High School Student Handbook. Late papers will NOT be accepted and will result in a grade of zero.

Assignment 1: Read *Educated* by Tara Westover.

Once you have completed the text, answer the following two-part question:

Consider Westover's life experiences *and* the commentary she offers throughout the book on the definition and purpose of an education.

- A. How does Westover define what it means to be educated? Please select and include details from the novel that you believe best support your interpretation of her definition. (About one page double spaced, broken into paragraphs)

Assignment 2: Texts in Conversation

After reading the Westover text, please read the following texts in the following order:

Frederick Douglass' "Learning to Read and Write" (Found here: http://learningabe.info/fd_ReadandWrite.pdf)

Sherman Alexie's "Superman and Me" (Found here: <http://www.umsl.edu/~alexanderjm/SupermanandMebyAlexie.pdf>)

The authors of each of these pieces critically reflect on the desire for and purpose of an education, just as Westover does in her memoir. Each of these writers comments on these concepts as they relate to the individual and to the larger society. Read each piece carefully, *more than once*. It is recommended that you print them so that you can engage with the texts through purposeful annotation. After you have read them thoroughly enough to feel confident in your understanding of them, answer the following questions. One paragraph for each question is sufficient.

1. Douglass comments that "[E]ducation and slavery were incompatible with each other." Alexie comments that in reading and loving books, he had "only one purpose. [H]e was trying to save [his] life." Explain how Douglass' comment relates to Alexie's, examining the common element in both statements. In what ways are these statements the same, and what do they reveal about the purpose and power of being literate?
2. Consider Westover's piece in conversation with Douglass' and Alexie's. How do you think Westover would respond to Douglass and Alexie? Elaborate on how you think her perspective of an education relates to theirs, selecting details from her text that speak to the other pieces.