

AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition.

This is a unique course that will be unlike any English course most of you have taken. Our class will focus on developing the skills needed to succeed in a college-level rhetoric and argument course, and nonfiction texts will be at the forefront of our study. You will learn to think deeply about the possibilities of language as a *persuasive tool* and about the dynamic relationship of writer, context, audience, and argument in written, spoken, and visual texts. In addition to reading closely to discern the purpose, audience, and style of rigorous texts, a major consideration of this course is to prepare you to write effectively and confidently across the curriculum and in your professional and personal lives.

When we meet to begin working to achieve these goals during the first week of school, you will need to have completed a close, annotated reading of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari.

The focus for your reading should be how Harari argues that Homo sapiens ***both conquered and invented*** the world they live in.

What to annotate as you read:

What are Harari's purposes for writing? The purposes you will be reading to discern are informative purposes (to provide specific information to assist in readers' understanding) and persuasive purposes (to encourage the reader to do, think, or feel something specifically). You will want to notice how these purposes work together to create a compelling argument.

What are some choices Harari makes to achieve his purposes?

The most common choices writers of nonfiction use to communicate persuasive and/or informative purposes:

- Diction (word choice) and Tone (author's attitude toward the subject)
- Comparisons/Contrasts
- Repetition (of words, structures, concepts, or ideas)
- Anecdotes (short narratives that illustrate a point)
- Facts, Statistics, Examples
- Details (sensory and descriptive)
- Questions

If you have any questions about this assignment or the class, feel free to contact me. My email is tstewart@dadeschools.net.

See you soon,

Mr. Stewart