

11th AP Language & Composition - Summer Reading - Mrs. Dickerson Beverly
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Purpose

AP Language and Composition is the equivalent of a college-level course and will require a close reading, utilizing higher order thinking skills, and writing in an analytical and thought provoking manner. I am looking forward to working with you during your junior year to prepare you for the rigors of critical reading, writing, and thinking at a collegiate level. One of the major objectives of this course is to help students become more skilled, analytical, and careful readers. It is essential that students continue to practice critical reading skills independently during the summer months. The summer reading assignment is designed to allow students to preview major themes of the course, reflect upon and challenge their notions of reading and writing, and to instill a strong work ethic that students will be expected to maintain throughout the upcoming school year in not just English but all other AP courses, as well.

Required Reading Assignments Due Printed to me in B103 by August 19, 2022 at 3:30pm:

I. *The New York Times* “Room for Debate” (www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate)

Grading

- “Room for Debate” - 3 assignments @ 20 points each = 60 points possible

Role in the AP Language & Composition Class

• The “Room for Debate” assignments serve several purposes. First, they will help familiarize students with nonfiction texts, which much of this course centers upon. Also, students will begin to analyze the techniques used by writers to support differing viewpoints on a subject. In addition, we will be referring to this assignment later in the semester as students research, gather various resources, and create a synthesis essay about a current issue in the news. Students will be expected to use MLA formatting for their Works Cited, which they will continue to grow familiar with through the summer reading assignment.

“Room for Debate” Assignment - Due August 19th, 2022 by 3:30pm

Directions:

- Visit the “Room for Debate” database (www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate). You will research a total of 3 topics in all for this assignment.
- Begin by selecting ONE topic of your choice for focus (*scroll down to the bottom right of the “Room for Debate” page for a complete list of topics*). Read the introduction and **each** editorial/article provided (typically 4-6) on your selected topic. This will give you some background information on the issue, as well as several perspectives from a vast array of authors. It is vital to understand one topic may have both supporting and opposing views.
- In at least 1 ½ typed pages (12pt. font and double-spaced), write a brief analysis explaining your conclusions and information learned about your topic:
 - _ Use MLA formatted header for your paper AND identify your topic in the title
 - _ In your analysis, identify the different issues presented regarding the topic
 - _ Discuss **HOW** each side researched presents its argument
 - _ Discuss which side you feel is more convincing in its argument and explain **WHY**.
 - _ In your analysis, you should utilize at least **THREE in-text citations** in MLA format from any of the articles for support of your analysis.
- Create an MLA Works Cited page for your topic: use the entry information to cite as an article from an online newswire or newspaper (examples on following pages). Remember to use a **hanging indent** (indent every line *except* the first one). You will include ALL articles read and referenced while researching your selected topic. Remember to place citations in alphabetical order, double-spaced (no extra spacing between sources), and 12 point font.

Repeat this process twice more (for a total of 3), each time reading about a different topic, by the due date. You will submit your 3 writings (printed out) and works cited to my classroom B103:

Due August 19th, 2022 by 3:30pm

****Sample Submission:**

Sue Jones

AP English Lang & Comp

Mrs. Dickerson Beverly

18 August 2022

“Room for Debate” Assignment #1 - *Parenting in Today’s World*

There are so many concerns and questions to deal with in the parenting world. Do you tell your child yes or no? Are you tough or sweet tempered? Do you let things go or do you keep a tight leash on your child? These questions are just some of the thoughts and interests that parents face today. With society becoming more complex and sophisticated, does parenting need to become extreme? How hard you are on your child can help predict how successful they will be in the future. Extremely strict control can either lead your child into a life of success or make them counterproductive.

It is believed that how strict you are on your child will either help or hurt them in the future. Amy Chua, a professor at Yale Law says, “Tough love is the key to raising successful children” (Becker 1). In other words, don’t give into children. You are to hold your ground, and set multiple rules for your child. Mothers have set rules such as: not being allowed to have or go to sleepovers, no TV, no complaining, and no grades below an A. Some believe that this is the way to ensure the ability of their children to make something of themselves in the future. The more rules you supply for your child, the more they will progress in their value for education. This idea is backed up by the thought of disregarding parenting responsibilities completely. One woman said, “The problem is that laissez-faire parenting can be too laid back and detrimental to children.” If you revoke all parenting in general, then your child can become ineffective and fruitless. In parenting can you only be strict or lazy? No, these are just two extremes. On the flip side, the majority of parents think that a balance in parenting is the

best for raising their child. You can't destroy all creativity and have so many expectations for your child. Some things that they do have to be on their own, otherwise they won't be able to make their own decisions in life. They will only do what's expected of them. Also, by forcing your beliefs on your child, you are pressuring them. The ability to accomplish the goals that children have set for them has become harder because goals are becoming harder to achieve. Karen Karbo, novelist and memoirist states, "It's true that we, as parents, have erred in downplaying how competitive life is, and how difficult it is to truly excel" (3). By only setting rules and never allowing our children to simply enjoy life as it comes, we are putting too much stress on them. Is being strict the right way to parent, or is it keeping a balance?

Parenting should be a mix of strictness and freedom, a perfect balance. Parents cannot control their children's every minute in life, otherwise they aren't living their own lives. It is true to say that kids can't have any rules at all, but a strict rules policy is ridiculous. The stress level that can be caused from being too strict is outrageous. "If children don't succeed in what we push and plan for them, they feel like a failure" (Jones 2). Children should be praised for what their own personal capabilities allow them to do, not be scorned for what they can't acquire. How strict you are with your children does affect them in their success in life, but being too strict has problems in itself. Too much of anything can be a bad thing; finding a good balance of yes and no, being tough and sweet, keeping a tight leash and knowing when to let go, is the way parenting should go about.

****Sample Works Cited Submission:**

Sue Jones

AP English Lang & Comp

Mrs. Dickerson Beverly

18 August 2022

WORKS CITED - *Health and Genetic Modifications*

Gathany, James. "Can Genetically Modified Bugs Save Lives?" *The New York Times*, The New York Times Company, 23 Feb. 2015, www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/02/23/can-genetically-modified-mosquitoes-eliminate-dengue-fever.

Begin Citation 2 here.....etc etc

New York Times—Room for Debate Rubric

Student Name: _____

Topic Analysis # _____

	4	3	2	1	0
<i>MLA Citation</i>	Properly cites website using MLA format; correctly italicizes, punctuates, uses hanging indent, etc.	Properly cites website using MLA format; indents, punctuation, etc. are mostly correct.	Attempts to cite website using MLA format; includes relevant information but is not formatted correctly	Only includes portions of information necessary in an MLA citation	Does not include an MLA citation
<i>Identification of issues</i>	Clearly and thoroughly examines complex views on the topic	Includes differing views presented on the topic	Makes some mention of different viewpoints presented	Viewpoints are identified superficially or vaguely	Does not identify varying viewpoints on issue presented in articles
<i>Discussion of presentation of arguments</i>	Carefully analyzes evidence, approaches, etc. utilized by authors in supporting viewpoints	Considers some evidence, approaches, etc. utilized by authors in supporting viewpoints	Makes some mention of evidence, approaches, etc. but does not get in depth	Makes little mention of specific evidence, approaches, etc.	Does not discuss how authors present arguments
<i>Opinion of articles</i>	Student clearly identifies which argument he/she found most effective, and includes specific evidence to support his/her opinion	Student identifies which argument he/she found most effective, and includes some general evidence to support his/her opinion	Student identifies which argument he/she found most effective, but includes little evidence to support his/her opinion	Student's opinion of arguments is unclear	Student does not take a position evaluating the persuasiveness of arguments
<i>Textual evidence</i>	Includes 3 quotes from the articles and analyzes the textual evidence	Includes 3 quotes from the articles to support his or her ideas	Includes 2 quotes from the articles, but the textual evidence does not support the students' ideas	Includes only 1 quote from the articles	Does not specifically quote articles

TOTAL= _____/20