

FREAKONOMICS



AP Language and Composition (11th and 12th grade)

Summer Reading Assignment

The AP English Language and Composition Exam employs multiple-choice questions to test students' skills in rhetorical analysis of prose passages. Students are also required to write three essays that demonstrate their skill in rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis of information from multiple sources to support the student's own argument. (<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-language-and-composition>)

For your summer reading assignment before entering AP Lang. and Comp., you are to read *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores The Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. While reading, keep in mind the skills you must demonstrate in the AP Language and Composition exam by the end of the year:

- Rhetorical Analysis
- Argumentation
- Synthesis

After reading, please respond to the following prompt: **The entire premise of this book centers around the idea of incentives – how people get what they want or need – and how these incentives (economic, social, moral) shape society. In essay form, argue your agreement or disagreement with this premise. In doing so, you must analyze the rhetoric and argument used by the authors.**

Some aspects of the writing you will want to discuss in your analysis:

- Diction (word choice)
- Structure
 - Sentence structures
 - Repetition
 - Questions
- Shape of argument
 - How is it organized?
 - Examples, statistics, stories, etc.
- What is the author's purpose?
- What does the author do to achieve said purpose?
 - Appeals? (ethos, pathos, logos)
 - Attacks?
 - Statistics?
 - Examples?
- What do we know about the author's bias? How do we know? (be specific)

Be prepared to upload your analysis to turnitin.com on the first day of school. Keep your analysis succinct – no more than 1000 words. This assignment is your first shot at demonstrating your ability to analyze and creatively put forth your own argument.