

## Advanced Placement: English Language



### Summer Reading & Writing Assignments

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You will have two novels to read this summer. They are:

1. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
2. *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

While reading, pay attention to the writing styles of the authors.

After completing the novels, choose **one** of the essay prompts below and compose a two-page, typed, double-spaced essay.

#### Essay assignments:

1. For *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, explain how the shift in narration gives readers a fuller understanding of Mariam and Laila. You must use at least 3 textual citations in the essay's body paragraphs.
- OR
2. For *The Glass Castle*, explain what Walls' memoir reveals about the influences of parents on their children. You must use at least 3 textual citations in the essay's body paragraphs.

Use proper MLA format. The following website can help you use MLA guidelines correctly:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

Be mindful of all the conventions of good writing that you've learned up to this point in your education, and be sure that you adhere to those conventions. ***This is due on the first day of school!***

Additionally, be ready **to take a test** during the first week we come back to school. It will be 100 points and cover **BOTH** novels.

#### Email assignment (use my email address listed above):

In addition to the summer reading, **prior to August 22<sup>nd</sup>**, you must send me an email that tells me about yourself. It must be well edited and at least one significant paragraph. Tell me why you took the class, how you spent your summer, what you enjoy most/least about English, anything you think/want me to know about you. If I receive the email, I will respond to you within 3 days. If you don't get a response, re-send the email☺ This is a 25 point assignment.

I look forward to hearing and reading about your reactions to these excellent works. With diligent, hard work on both your part and mine, we should have a rewarding year in AP English Language. The essay scoring rubric is on back. Happy reading & writing! 😊

# RUBRIC OF ALL RUBRICS

## AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE	PAPER DEMONSTRATES:
<b>9 (A)</b>	Excellent thesis; excellent illustrations (support); excellent organization; sound mechanics; effective argumentation; sees and makes connections. Responds completely to essay prompt.
<b>8 (A-)</b>	Excellent thesis; excellent illustrations; effective organization; less imagination or speculation; strong argumentation; a few mechanical flaws which do not reduce the impact of the analysis.
<b>7 (B+)</b>	Intelligent, yet less concise thesis; effective illustrations; sound organization; sound argument; adequate mechanics; a "safe" paper, beautifully done.
<b>6 (B)</b>	Good, safe thesis; completely adequate in every way; some illustrations; a beginning, middle, and end; significantly less solid argumentation.
<b>5 (C+)</b>	Adequate thesis, yet unnecessarily general; predictable illustrations; general argument; a few definite mechanical flaws; intelligent observations and conclusions.
<b>4 (C)</b>	Thesis is too broad or too vague; some illustrations, but surface analysis; definite mechanical flaws or carelessness; the writing has "moments" when it is an essay.
<b>3 (C-/D+)</b>	Thesis is much too broad or vague; an adequate report; an intelligent summary (primarily summary) rather than succinct argumentation; few illustrations; punctuation flaws; might reflect a simple lack of effort or hurried, last minute preparation.
<b>2 (D)</b>	Thesis, if it exists, is hiding; it is up to the reader to find it; an assortment of rambling generalizations; amidst all the generalization, there are enough intelligent observations to justify a passing grade; many grammatical errors.
<b>1 (F)</b>	No thesis; therefore, nothing to illustrate; no interest in topic or no response to the topic (completely off topic); brief; undeveloped.

**COMMENTS/TEACHER FEEDBACK FOR IMPROVEMENT:**