

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

Assignment #1 *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

This superb memoir offers a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King's advice is grounded in his vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported, near-fatal accident in 1999—and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery. (*Anthony Lunardi/Western Branch High School*).

Have you ever wondered: “Did the author mean to do that?” King's book provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction to this book, “What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done.” In this book, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. (This analysis is a major component of the work we will do in AP Language.) This book is divided into four sections: *C.V.*, *Toolbox*, *On Writing*, and *On Living: A Postscript*. Your assignments will, likewise, be divided into four sections. For each assignment below, please include the page numbers for the passages discussed.

Task #1: C.V.

This is a non-fiction text, but it often reads like a novel. To tell his story, King uses literary elements and techniques (i.e. imagery, dialogue, figurative language) which we often associated with fictional pieces. **Identify three passages** in which King uses such elements/techniques effectively. **Explain the elements/techniques** he uses and why they are effective.

Task #2: Toolbox

Create a writer's toolbox for yourself. Identify **7 rules of writing** that King discusses (include page number) which you think are important or interesting. As you select them, think about your own strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Please number your selections 1-7. Explain why you selected these rules; write 2-3 sentences for each.

Task #3 On Writing

How does King feel about writing? How do you know? Choose **three key passages from this section in which King defines writing**, either directly or figuratively. (Remember to include page numbers.) In your own words, restate King's point about writing in the passage and explain why you think this point is interesting or important.

Task #4: On Living: A Postscript

This task does not pertain to just this section of the book. Rather, **explain your opinion of King as both a writer and a person**. Would you consider reading one of his books now? (If you have read his books prior to this assignment, has your opinion of the author changed? If so, how?) **What do you think King's purpose was in writing this book?** Support your answers to both prompts with evidence from the text.

Assignment #2 Speech Analysis

Identify a social or political issue, current or historical, that is important or interesting to you. Research to find **five** speeches or articles written regarding that issue. Items to consider: presidential addresses, editorials from reputable sources (not opinion.com or BuzzFeed type sources), and political debates. Try to find texts that reflect multiple perspectives on the issue.

For each speech or article, complete the following tasks:

1. Locate and identify figurative or descriptive language used in the speech. Explain the effect this use of language has on the listener/reader. (Why is it used?)
2. What is the purpose of this speech? What did the speaker/author want to accomplish through those words? Explain how you know.
3. How does the speech/article connect to the social or political issue? Why was it relevant?

Complete these assignments in separate documents – one for all tasks of assignment 1, one for all tasks of assignment 2. Have them ready to submit to TurnItIn using the code you'll receive on the first day of school.

Both assignments are due by 11:59 on the first day of school.