**Suggested Summer Reading Activities**

AP Language & Composition is a course focused on non-fiction texts. The texts we’ll read this year will typically be shorter in length than full length novels and will come from a wide variety of contexts. Understanding the context – both historical and social – of the texts will be a key component to your analysis and preparation for the AP exam. During the year you’ll be required to expand your background knowledge through reading, watching and listening to texts in a variety of subject areas. I encourage you to consider starting this process this summer. It is not required but will help you both in class and as an informed human.

As an AP Lang student and generally well-informed person, you need to be curators of knowledge. The different areas of knowledge we will discuss can be summarized with the acronym **CHORES** – **current events, history & art, our experiences, reading, entertainment, sports & science.** I will post a list of resources on my public Canvas page for you to consider for the summer. This can be found by finding my profile on the Davis High website Faculty profile page. These will include podcasts, books, social media accounts, news sources, etc. to help you expand your background knowledge. The idea is to explore content areas that you are not as familiar with. If you enjoy following sports and entertainment, perhaps it would be a good idea to explore history & art or current events. The goal is to learn about something you’re not already familiar with.

Again, this is not a required assignment, and we’ll dig into this more in the fall, but it will help you to get started this summer.

Whatever your summer plans may be – travel, working, spending time with friends and family – pay attention to what is going on around you in your community and the world. Have fun. Be safe and I’ll see you in the fall!

As an AP Lang student and generally well-informed person, you need to be curators of knowledge. For your FRQ 3 – Argument you can use anything for your evidence. Consider the following categories:

**C.H.O.R.E.S**

* **Current Events**
* **History & Art**
* **Our Experiences**
* **Reading**
* **Entertainment/Pop Culture**
* **Sports & Science**

**Documentaries**

There are so many documentaries available that present strong arguments. Pick a few that interest you and watch them over the summer. This is just a small list of documentaries. There are so many more out there! Check out the documentaries category on Netflix or even search on YouTube “full length documentaries.” Below is a list of some great ones to check out.

The Social Dilemma

My Octopus Teacher

All In, The Fight for Democracy

Behind the Curve

Chasing Happiness (Jonas Brothers)

13th

Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal

Blackfish

The Mask You Live In

Miss Representation

An Inconvenient Truth

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices

Waiting for Superman

Building the Machine

Man on Wire

\*Not a documentary, but will prepare you for the argument aspect of this course –The Great Debaters\*\*

**Podcasts**

Podcasts are great because you can listen to them anywhere and they’re free! If there is something that you are interested in there is probably a podcast for you. I will encourage you to not only listen to podcasts that interest you, but to expand your knowledge by choosing a podcast where you have limited knowledge. You can listen to podcast on the Apple Podcast app or many other apps on your phone. I like the Overcast app. Here is a list of podcasts to help you learn more about the world.

**Current Events**

**Podcasts**

* [Throughline – on Apple Podcasts](https://go.skimresources.com/?id=143429X1608040&isjs=1&jv=15.3.0-stackpath&sref=https%3A%2F%2Ftime.com%2F5622795%2Fbest-history-podcasts%2F&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fus%2Fpodcast%2Fthroughline%2Fid1451109634&xs=1&xtz=420&xuuid=43205c60d01512cc013a089b7959d0b5&xjsf=other_click__auxclick%20%5B2%5D) Ramtin Arablouei and Rund Abdelfatah, the hosts of NPR’s new podcast *Throughline*, are here to remind us that we must heed the past as we consider what it means to live in the present.
* [Global News Podcast – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/3wBfqov60qDZbEVjPHo0a8?si=d05c772df5c045db) The day’s top stories from BBC News. Delivered twice a day on weekdays, daily at weekends
* [Dear Hank & John – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/6e4HNBdPvjDOHKVf82oMEk?si=487b62b0d5e0458e) Hosts John and Hank Green (authors and YouTubers) offer both humorous and heartfelt advice about life’s big and small questions. They bring their personal passions to each episode by sharing the week’s news from Mars (the planet) and AFC Wimbledon (the fourth-tier English football club).
* [Let’s Be Real with Sammy Jaye on iHeartRadio](https://www.iheart.com/podcast/1248-lets-be-real-with-sammy-j-56806419/) Let’s Be Real, hosted by GenZ change maker Sammy Jaye, is all about having powerful and candid conversations with celebrities, activists, athletes and influencers, while discussing real-life issues – from mental health and political activism to pop culture and more.
* [RadioLab - on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/2hmkzUtix0qTqvtpPcMzEL?si=0dbc3e32d8184f9c)Radiolab is on a curiosity bender. We ask deep questions and use investigative journalism to get the answers. A given episode might whirl you through science, legal history, and into the home of someone halfway across the world.
* This American Life – on Spotify With fascinating, in-depth reporting on the phenomena that make up our lives, This American Life is a great family listen. A public-radio institution, it features slices of life that center around themes that unite them.
* [Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me! - on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/0dWpNy3iA6Mm3xYaHB2Zi9?si=4c680036f62c43ed) NPR's weekly news quiz. Have a laugh and test your knowledge with today's funniest comedians. And if you can't get enough, try our new mid-week show, Everyone & Their Mom. Each Wednesday, host Emma Choi takes the story everyone's talking about and uses it as an excuse to hang out with culture makers, Wait Wait panelists, and hilarious new comedians.

**History & Arts**

**Podcasts**

* [Backstory – on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/30-for-30-podcasts/id1244784611) U.S. historians Ed Ayers, Brian Balogh, Nathan Connolly and Joanne Freeman of [Virginia Humanities](https://www.virginiahumanities.org/) endeavor to look at today’s headlines through the lens of American history. They assure their listeners that these are the stories they “*want* to learn,” not the ones they “*had* to learn” in history class.
* [Dan Carlin’s Hardcore History – on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/dan-carlins-hardcore-history/id173001861) He dramatically narrates some of the most epic moments in human history with such color that Hollywood producers looking for new material ought to take notice.
* [More Perfect – on Apple Podcasts](https://go.skimresources.com/?id=143429X1608040&isjs=1&jv=15.3.0-stackpath&sref=https%3A%2F%2Ftime.com%2F5622795%2Fbest-history-podcasts%2F&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fus%2Fpodcast%2Fradiolab-presents-more-perfect%2Fid1117202653&xs=1&xtz=420&xuuid=43205c60d01512cc013a089b7959d0b5&xjsf=other_click__auxclick%20%5B2%5D) Each episode of *More Perfect* delves into a specific Supreme Court case and tries to get inside the justice’s heads to understand why they made the decisions that have had decades- or even centuries-long ripple effects in American society.
* [Presidential – on Apple Podcasts](https://go.skimresources.com/?id=143429X1608040&isjs=1&jv=15.3.0-stackpath&sref=https%3A%2F%2Ftime.com%2F5622795%2Fbest-history-podcasts%2F&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fus%2Fpodcast%2Fpresidential%2Fid1072170823&xs=1&xtz=420&xuuid=43205c60d01512cc013a089b7959d0b5&xjsf=other_click__auxclick%20%5B2%5D) Lillian Cunningham dives into the life and legacy of a different American president. The show often focuses on the tension between how we perceive these historical figures and who they actually were — as in one running joke in which Cunningham asks historians what it would be like to go on a blind date with various presidents.
* [Revisionist History Malcolm Gladwell – on Apple Podcasts](https://go.skimresources.com/?id=143429X1608040&isjs=1&jv=15.3.0-stackpath&sref=https%3A%2F%2Ftime.com%2F5622795%2Fbest-history-podcasts%2F&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fus%2Fpodcast%2Frevisionist-history%2Fid1119389968&xs=1&xtz=420&xuuid=43205c60d01512cc013a089b7959d0b5&xjsf=other_click__auxclick%20%5B2%5D) His podcast reexamines “overlooked” moments in history, like why a famed basketball player made the illogical decision to favor a worse free throw form or why an artist who broke the glass ceiling only ended up reconfirming gender biases. Gladwell comes alive when tackling societal injustices that are particularly irksome to him.
* [Not Past It – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/2IDH4p3mEBPgVHbq4HQVA2?si=2508e0f39ae24589) Ever wonder why the world is the way it is? Like, 1000s of years of humanity and this is the version of the world we came up with. This one? Same. Each Wednesday on Not Past It host Simone Polanen will pick a moment from that very same week in history -- and tell you how it shaped our lives today.
* [This is Where It Gets Interesting – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/4EcyJDMDSJeC1lxVCEksTU?si=303f892f47604e46) Here’s Where It Gets Interesting finds the stories of America you probably haven’t heard. Host Sharon McMahon, a longtime teacher and one of today’s most influential voices, will ignite your curiosity about the fascinating stuff that wasn’t in history textbooks. She’s joined by notable thought leaders who share insights about history, culture, and politics, and inspire us to grow into more thoughtful, well-informed citizens.
* [Lore – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/25PdDOYwfXDFvZ4pI1JWDh?si=8b9bd81014e44ff0) Lore is a bi-weekly podcast (now also a TV show and book series) about dark historical tales. Each episode explores the mysterious creatures, tragic events, and unusual places that fill the pages of history. Because sometimes the truth is more frightening than fiction.

**Reading – See suggested book list on Canvas**

**Podcasts**

* [The Moth – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/5UKrcYdaGbq10z97yqi81N?si=59b2fa6864344c90) Since its launch in 1997, The Moth has presented thousands of true stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. Moth storytellers stand alone, under a spotlight, with only a microphone and a roomful of strangers. The storyteller and the audience embark on a high-wire act of shared experience which is both terrifying and exhilarating.

**Entertainment/Pop Culture**

**Podcasts**

* [Cocaine & Rhinestones – on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/cocaine-rhinestones-the-history-of-country-music/id1304192102) This obsessively researched, essayistic show examines the history of country music and some of its icons. Even those who have never donned a cowboy hat will appreciate the sordid and controversial history of the genre.
* [Mogule – on Apple Podcasts](https://go.skimresources.com/?id=143429X1608040&isjs=1&jv=15.3.0-stackpath&sref=https%3A%2F%2Ftime.com%2F5622795%2Fbest-history-podcasts%2F&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fus%2Fpodcast%2Fmogul%2Fid1247146656&xs=1&xtz=420&xuuid=43205c60d01512cc013a089b7959d0b5&xjsf=other_click__auxclick%20%5B2%5D) The series covers the life and death of Chris Lighty, a manager who represented [Missy Elliott](https://time.com/5361784/missy-elliot-cover/), [50 Cent](https://time.com/4961465/50-cent-donald-trump-campaign-offer/) and Busta Rhymes, and, in following his story, traces the history of hip-hop. Host Reggie Ossé, a former industry lawyer who knew Lighty, brings passion to the story of his old friend.
* [Armchair Expert – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/6kAsbP8pxwaU2kPibKTuHE?si=5d76f854a1eb4527) Hi, I’m Dax Shepard, and I love talking to people. I am endlessly fascinated by the messiness of being human, and I find people who are vulnerable and honest about their struggles and shortcomings to be incredibly sexy. I invite you to join me as I explore other people’s stories. We will celebrate, above all, the challenges and setbacks that ultimately lead to growth and betterment. What qualifies me for such an endeavor? More than a decade of sobriety, a degree in Anthropology and four years of improv training. I will attempt to discover human “truths” without any laboratory work, clinical trials or data collection. I will be, in the great tradition of 16th-century scientists, an Armchair Expert.
* [Smartless – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/0Yzd0g8NYmn27k2HFNplv7?si=41adc8ce1ca54681) "SmartLess" with Jason Bateman, Sean Hayes, & Will Arnett is a podcast that connects and unites people from all walks of life to learn about shared experiences through thoughtful dialogue and organic hilarity. A nice surprise: in each episode of SmartLess, one of the hosts reveals his mystery guest to the other two.

**Sports**

**Podcasts**

* [30 for 30 – on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/30-for-30-podcasts/id1244784611) This audio spinoff of ESPN’s famed *30 for 30* documentary series, hosted by Jody Avirgan, explores sports stories from history exclusively in the podcast format. Most episodes cover a different sports saga, with the exception of a few mini-series that dive deep into one person or topic.
* [Nobody Asked Us With Des & Kara](https://open.spotify.com/show/68gjR5AX6S81rZCqCgYhCc?si=1a0d36439ea04fdd) - on Spotify Once competitors and Olympic teammates, now friends and podcast partners, Des Linden and Kara Goucher share their hot takes about all things running with a little bit of life-stuff sprinkled in too. Come for the insights on running and stay for the inspiration from two legends in the sport. No filter needed.
* [The Lowe Post – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/2mZHt3zBxyIuc0PYLdDDkr?si=7fb2738a18bc4d4f) ESPN's Zach Lowe talks to various basketball people about various basketball things basketball.

**Science**

**Podcasts**

* [RadioLab - on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/2hmkzUtix0qTqvtpPcMzEL?si=0dbc3e32d8184f9c)Radiolab is on a curiosity bender. We ask deep questions and use investigative journalism to get the answers. A given episode might whirl you through science, legal history, and into the home of someone halfway across the world.
* [Science Friday – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/5UpA5Uw23B6bukC0TABffC?si=6e8d6e3574744f91) Science Friday, or "Sci Fri" to the initiated, is another podcast for science lovers: It focuses more on current events, and the scientific concepts that are in the news.
* [The Skeptic’s Guide to the Universe – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/4RVc0stLre1yB5Ac3hiAPl?si=fd69fc5e25d9478e) The Skeptics’ Guide to the Universe is produced by SGU Productions, LLC – dedicated to promoting critical thinking, reason, and the public understanding of science through online and other media.
* [Curiosity Daily – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/1xdxNOWLjKcZq1UWkuBL79?si=eeccf1127aa7470d) The award-winning Curiosity Daily podcast from CuriosityDaily.com will help you get smarter about the world around you. In less than 10 minutes, you’ll get a unique mix of research-based life hacks, the latest science and technology news, and more. Nate Bonham and Calli Gade will help you learn about your mind and body, outer space and the depths of the sea, and how history shaped the world into what it is today.
* [I Know Dino: The Big Dinosaur Podcast – on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/4nNJonFAKhRIEJKr45hQPb?si=341a280dcd1648ad) The big dinosaur podcast. News, interviews, and discussions about dinosaurs.

**Nonfiction Reading**

This is a list of nonfiction titles that will help you broaden your bank of background knowledge for FRQ 3. ***You don't have to read something from this list, but it is an option.*** Many are available in the DHS library or via SORA (eBooks). Some of these titles may involve sensitive information, so do your research before reading.

Invincible Microbe – Jim Murphy & Alison Blank  
The Indifferent Stars Above – Daniel James Brown  
Bloody Times – James L Swanson  
I Am Malala – Malala Yousafzai  
David and Goliath – Malcolm Gladwell  
Walking with the Wind – John Lewis  
The Agony of Power – Jean Baudrillard  
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates – Wes Moore  
Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and less from each other – Sherry Turkle  
Asian American Dreams – Helen Zia  
Becoming – Michelle Obama  
Educated – Tara Westover  
Born a Crime – Trevor Noah  
The Coddling of the American Mind – Greg Lukianoff  
Code Girls: the Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II  
The Things They Carried – Tim O’Brien  
Invisible Women – Caroline Criado-Perez  
The Bomber Mafia – Malcolm Gladwell  
Just Mercy – Bryan Stevenson  
The Pioneers – David McCullough  
The Woman They Could Not Silence – Kate Moore  
Born to Run – Christopher McDougal  
But is it True? Aarojin Wildvsky  
Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America – Christopher Benson & Maime Till  
Fast Food Nation – Eric Schlosser  
Freakonomics – Leavitt & Dubner  
The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls  
Green Illusions – Ozzie Zehener  
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot  
Into Thin Air – Jon Krakauer  
League of Denial – Steve Fainaru & Mark Fainura-Wada  
Men Explain Things to Me – Rebecca Solnit  
The Omnivore’s Dilemma – Michael Pollan  
Devil in the White City – Erik Larson  
Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers – Mary Roach  
A Long Way Gone – Ishmael Beah  
Code Name – Larry Loftis  
Apollo 11 – David Whitehouse  
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee – Dee Brown  
Killers of the Flower Mood – David Grann  
Evicted – Matthew Desmond  
The Hot Zone – Richard Preston  
Unbroken – Lauren Hillenbrand  
The Mother Tongue – Bill Bryson  
Caste – Isabel Wilkerson  
The Price of Admission – Daniel Golden  
Think Again – Adam Grant  
How the Word is Passed – Clint Smith  
In Cold Blood – Truman Capote  
Under the Banner of Heaven – Jon Krakauer  
The Innocent Man – John Grisham  
The Soloist – Steve Lopez  
Spitting in the Soup – Kate Johnson  
The Structure of Scientific Revolutions – Thoman Kuhn  
The Value of Nothing – Raj Patel  
When Helping Hurts – Steve Corbet & Brian Fikkert

**News Media**

It's important to keep in mind the bias of the media we consume. Our brains don't like to hear information that we don't agree with. It's hard for us to process the differences. For the purposes of preparing for the AP Lang exam, it is important to broaden the news media we consume. This is a chart created by Allsides.com. If you lean left, read some coverage of the same story from a right leaning publication and vice versa.

