

AP Language and Composition
Summer Assignment

Summer Comedy Assignment
Assignment Due Friday Aug 17, 2018

Welcome to AP Lang! We are looking forward to reading, writing and working with you next year. In preparation for the class, we ask you to complete the following assignment prior to the first day of school. We will use these texts and analytical experiences as key components of the first days of class.

Expect to use this glossary and required reading for in-class assignments at the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions, please email us:

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Part 1: Create a glossary of the following terms to guide you in your reading of comedic texts this summer.

- Irony (dramatic, situational, verbal)
- Satire
- Parody
- Absurdity
- Paradox
- Cognitive dissonance
- Non sequitur
- Impression
- Misunderstanding (deliberate or otherwise)
- Pun
- Litotes
- Heckling
- Black comedy (discomfort with truth)
- Schadenfreude
- Contrast/Juxtaposition
- Hyperbole/escalation
- Bon mot
- Double blunder/relapse
- Farce
- Common ground
- Inversion/reversal
- Lampoon
- Malapropism
- Recovery
- Spoof

Part 2: Required Readings (20 points for notecards)

A. Full-length book:

Everyone will read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

** Please note, the Worthington/Central Ohio Library system says they have 108 print copies and 68 digital copies. You MUST plan ahead and request a copy. If you wait until the last week of summer, a copy may not be available. If you prefer to write in your book, please plan to buy it early.

B. Feature film or play

Select a quality comedy and plan to watch it at least twice (unless you attend a play).

Suggested titles: *Tootsie*, *Airplane!*, *The Graduate*, *The Lady Eve*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Kid* (Charlie Chaplin), *Deadpool*, *Spy*, *Stripes*, *Annie Hall*, *Waiting for Guffman*, *The Big Lebowski*, *This is Spinal Tap!*,

C. Comedian at work:

Select and watch a stand-up comedian's special (think Dave Chappelle, Tig Notaro, Larry the Cable Guy, Dennis Miller, etc.) or a televised monologue comedian in several episodes (think Stephen Colbert, Samantha Bee, Jimmy Kimmel, etc.).

D. Print/visual comedy:

Select and print 5 editorial cartoons (*The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The National Review*, or international, etc.) on a common, timely topic from this summer.

CAUTION: These options may contain events, language, and themes that are intended for mature audiences. You, in conjunction with your parents or guardians, are responsible for selecting works that are appropriate to your particular tastes, values, and sensibilities.

Part 3: Notes - Capture information and analyze some of the material in each of the readings above on sheet of notebook paper (handwritten).

Follow this format:

- Write the title and genre of the work
- Summarize the subject(s) of the work
- Analyze the overall message or purpose of the work
- Note the funniest jokes/scenes/parts and explain why you thought they were funny (with page numbers for Noah's book)
- See if you can identify any of the comedy terms in this work and explain why or how the author used them

Plan to bring your four note cards, your glossary and if possible, *Born a Crime*, the first week of class.