

## AP English Language and Composition -Summer Reading Assignment 2017

### Directions:

1. In the order presented, read and carefully annotate each of the following:

Introduction to *The Riverside Reader* (p. 1-11)

Mario Vargas Llosa's 2010 Nobel Speech

*Persuasion and Argument* from *The Riverside Reader* (p. 475-485)

*Stone Soup* (p. 506-515)

*Women and the Future of Fatherhood* (p. 517-524)

*Genocide Without Apology* (p. 543-550)

*Of Altruism, Heroism, and Evolution's Gifts* (p. 552-557)

2. Answer each of the accompanying questions in a **typed document**. Be sure to include an MLA heading as well as carefully number each response. **A printed copy will be due on the first day of school**, and the document will be submitted to turnitin.com once accounts are set up in class the first week of school.

**\*AP Expectations:** Address the questions completely and to the best of your ability. Please be specific and detailed in your responses. Keep in mind that an "A" AP English student "engages fully in every assignment and demonstrates a willingness to examine his or her own thinking and assumptions. All work reflects a level of thinking far beyond the obvious and the superficial."

**\*Plagiarism:** Your assignment will be submitted to turnitin.com. If any plagiarism is found, you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and will not be given the opportunity to complete a new assignment. Note: Plagiarism includes copying off other sources without providing credit, copying the writing of your peers, and allowing peers to copy your writing. **This is independent work.** ("Working together" will not be considered an excuse for any similarity in responses.

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### **Introduction to *The Riverside Reader* (p. 1-11)**

1. Describe some of the strategies of a good reader. Which have you used that have been effective? Which will you try?
2. Based on the example, what elements should be considered for annotation? What should be your focus when reading an essay? List several examples.

### **Mario Vargas Llosa - 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature Speech (Handout)**

3. Summarize one argument Llosa makes in the first two paragraphs. Give one example of a way he supports/illustrates this argument.
4. Give some examples of what Llosa says are gifts given to him by writers. Look carefully at his diction (word choice)-how does his choice of words effectively communicate his feelings towards the authors that came before him? Use specific examples.
5. From the bottom of column two, summarize Llosa's argument about the power of literature. Comment on this from your own experience (perhaps provide examples from your own reading).
6. In the last column, Llosa further extends his argument to the effect of literature on humanity. Summarize this argument as clearly as you are able. How effectively do you think this argument is made? Give examples.

### **Persuasion and Argument from *The Riverside Reader* (p. 475-485)**

7. As a reader, describe what you should pay attention to in terms of purpose, audience, and strategies. Provide a few specific examples.

### **After reading the example persuasive paragraphs on p. 481-482, answer:**

8. How might Saloman go on to develop this paragraph into a full-length persuasive essay?
9. Saloman gives several examples of what he calls "unpredictable and violent results." How would you evaluate the persuasive value of the several generalizations that he gives as examples of such results?

**Family Values: *Stone Soup* by Barbara Kingsolver (p. 506-515)**

10. **Purpose:** In paragraphs 19 through 23, Kingsolver gives several snapshots of what so-called traditional families have actually looked like for the past several decades. What do you think she hopes to accomplish with these accounts?
11. **Purpose:** What new insights do you think Kingsolver wants her readers to have about the divorce process?
12. **Strategies:** Kingsolver has published several successful novels, two of which - *The Bean Trees* and *Pigs in Heaven* - tell the story of a single mother who adopts and raises a child. What strategies do you see in this essay that you think might have come from her talent for writing fiction?
13. **Strategies:** Kingsolver draws examples from two sources: from her own experience and observations and from historical examples from previous eras. What are the strengths of examples from each of these sources?

**Family Values: *Women and the Future of Fatherhood* by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead (p. 517-524)**

14. **Response:** In her first paragraph, Whitehead talks about "the fatherhood problem." How would describe the problem in our society? Or do you think it even exists? Why do you say so?
15. **Purpose:** What changes in women's behaviors and attitudes would Whitehead like to bring about? What changes in men's behaviors and attitudes would Whitehead like to bring about?
16. **Audience:** Whom do you see as the principle audience that Whitehead hopes to reach with this essay, men or women? On what do you base your answer?
17. **Strategies:** Whitehead's argument is built on strong statements like this: "Today, marriage and motherhood are coming apart," and "Men have no positive identity as fathers outside marriage." In light of your own observations about today's families, how credible do you find these statements? Why?

**Human Nature: *Genocide Without Apology* by Francine Prose (p. 543-550)**

18. **Response:** What is your first reaction to Prose's pointing out that a major book of the Old Testament not only sanctions killing the children of Israel's enemies, but encourages it?
19. **Audience:** What knowledge about religious hatred and bloodshed can Prose assume that her American readers have in 2004?
20. **Strategies:** How does she dramatize the story of Exodus to set the context for the celebration of Passover?
21. **Discussion:** How do you react to Prose's statement "Every group is capable of behaving this way, and has behaved this way -Americans included"?

**Human Nature: *Of Altruism, Heroism, and Evolution's Gifts* by Natalie Angier (p. 552-557)**

22. **Response:** What is your reaction to the quotation from a biologist whom Angier cites toward the end of the essay: "We're the nicest species I know"?
23. **Purpose:** What scenario can you imagine would take place in a major crisis such as an earthquake or flood if every person acted only from immediate self-interest?
24. **Audience:** To what extent do you think altruism is an important strand in the American character (assuming there is such a character)? Can you give an example?
25. **Strategies:** Natalie Angier is a science writer. What strategies from science writing does she seem to use in this piece of human interest opinion writing from *The New York Times*?

