

## AP English: Language and Composition/English III Honors Summer Homework Assignment

Next year, you will be reading literature and non-fiction texts across a large range of American history written by and about a variety of authors, movements, and themes that helped to define the American experience at different times throughout the country's development.

To prepare for AP English: Language and Composition/English III Honors, I want you to read, reflect, research, and write about the concept of the American voice and how it can be defined today. **Finish the following tasks over the summer and submit this assignment by Wed., Aug. 14, 2019:**

1. Visit the "Power of Prose" webpage on the PBS *Do You Speak American?* program website: <https://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/powerprose/>. Read through/skim all 16 articles featured on the index of the "Power of Prose" page (i.e. "The American Voice," "American Debuts," etc.) about the concept of the American voice and how it's been represented in different times in US history and through different cultural perspectives.
2. Closely read "The American Voice" and **two** of the other 16 articles of your choosing from the "Power of Prose" page and take thorough Cornell Notes on *each* of the three articles. On your notes, make sure to record new vocabulary (that you also need to define), main ideas, and supporting details in addition to creating analytical questions, making inferences, and composing a comprehensive summary for each of the three articles. **I will take up these notes as part of your grade.**
3. Reflect on what you've learned from these articles about the idea of the American voice and then **brainstorm** a list of individuals, groups, events, works of art/literature, social or political movements, etc. that you think are strong representations of the American voice in 2019, along with the qualities that make them such good representations. Make sure that these representatives you list have been active or created/developed roughly within the past year.
4. After close reflection, choose from your list which one you would identify as the best representation of the American voice in 2019 and **develop a 3 - 4 paragraph essay where you support your claim.**
5. The essay portion of the assignment will be graded as a final draft on the **Common Core Grades 11-12 argumentative writing rubric**: the first rubric [on this document](#).
6. You will need to conduct research about the representative you chose in order to cite evidence and support your overall argument. Do NOT use Wikipedia. Refer to **reliable sources only**. You should know how to use databases and search engines, and you should be able to discern if a source is reliable or not. **Use a minimum of 2 sources**. Keep in mind, you SHOULD express your opinion (in your claims and reasoning), but do NOT write from memory/off the top of your head about the person/group/thing you chose *when you should be citing researched information*.
7. As you outline and draft your argument, you should use the following structure:
  - a. Introduce the topic and lead into a **strong, concise thesis** that provides your direct claim and your major reasons that you will explore and support in your body paragraphs.
  - b. Develop your **body paragraph(s)** by following the *claim-cite-clarify-connect* structure. You should be very familiar with *claim-cite-clarify* at this point; *connect* is simply where you connect the point that you just made and supported back to the paragraph's *claim* AND the essay's thesis. You may use more than one piece of evidence per body paragraph.
  - c. Present a strong conclusion that reinforces your argument and goes beyond your thesis.
8. You will use the **MLA style guide** for formatting this essay, which you should also be very familiar with. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE on purpose *OR* on accident. If you need some resources to

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review, please refer to the OWL Purdue website. [Here are some links to specific pages you may need:](#)

**MLA format - general overview**

[owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/)

**MLA Formatting and Style Guide**

[owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)

**MLA In-Text Citations Basics**

[owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/)

**MLA Works Cited Page: The Basics**

[owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/)

**MLA Sample Works Cited Page**

[owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/)