

During the year, in the AP American Studies course, we will read fiction, non-fiction, and poetry to examine American experiences, voices, styles and the ways in which language is used to impact, persuade, and entertain readers.

For AP American Studies, we value writing that shows a precision of language, focus of topic, use of relevant support, and a personal voice that reveals a critical and reflective outlook. For AP American Studies, we value the kind of thinking that shows authentic creativity and curiosity.

The following assignments will provide you with a foundation for ideas and writing styles we plan to discuss throughout the year. The completion of these assignments is a course requirement and the expectation is that they are completed by the first day of class. Students who have not completed the summer assignments by the first day of class may not remain enrolled in the American Studies course.

AMERICAN STUDIES SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT: **AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

- * All assignments must be typed – 12pt double-spaced.
- * Use your preferred method of note-taking - double entry journal, sticky notes, underlining and annotation, etc. to guide your study and consideration of key literary and rhetorical elements.
- * Be prepared to discuss and write about these works in a thought-provoking manner.

1. Read John Kennedy Toole's, *A Confederacy of Dunces*

*Create a 500-word essay that answers the following question: Why did this novel win the Pulitzer Prize?

2. Read the following ten essays from *The Best American Essays 2007* edited by David Foster Wallace.

*Write ONE sentence, for each essay, that answers the following question: What is the author's intent in writing the essay?

- A) Ian Buruma's, *The Freedom to Offend*
- B) Mark Danner's, *Iraq: The War of the Imagination*
- C) Malcolm Gladwell's, *What the Dog Saw*

- D) Garret Keizer's, *Loaded*
- E) Louis Menand's, *Name that Tone*
- F) Cynthia Ozick's, *Out from Xanadu*
- G) Molly Peacock's, *Passion Flowers in Winter*
- H) Marilynne Robinson's, *Onward, Christian Liberals*
- I) Roger Scruton's, *A Carnivore's Credo*
- J) Peter Singer's, *What Should a Billionaire Give and What Should You?*

If you have any questions about the summer assignment, you may contact me at gmishuck@fairfield.k12.ct.us or underdog38@sbcglobal.net