

AP Language & Composition

Summer Session

{You will need 1 notebook or binder sectioned off into 2 sections: 1= Rhetorical Strategies (bible), 2= Vocab...you will also need a separate “journal” for your Commonplace book—it does NOT have to be expensive, but it should be more personal/intimate than a standard school notebook}

all assignments need to be **HAND-WRITTEN**...no typed entries will be accepted

A. Baby Bible (see 20 rhetorical strategies listed below):

1. Definition (you will need to look at more than 1 resource in order to fully understand these strategies & to find your “go to” resource)

2/3. TWO Example sentences from 2 different resources **cite sources**

4. Craft your OWN sentence/string of sentences using this strategy

ex. anastrophe

1. Origin: From the Greek ἀναστροφή (anastrophē), meaning “a turning back or about.” In plain English: Changing the syntax (structure) of a sentence such that the subject, object, verb, adjectives, etc. are in an unusual grammatical order (mannerofspeaking.org).

Departure from normal word order for the sake of emphasis; violating normal syntactical arrangement for emphasis (rhetoric.byu.edu);

2. from rhetoric.byu.edu

“Sure I am of this, that you have only to endure to conquer.” — Winston Churchill, 14 September 1914 **normal syntactical arrangement=I am sure of this...

3. from mannerofspeaking.org “Patience you must have, my young Palawan.” —Yoda **vs You must have patience

4. Happy you will be if you complete one of these summer session tasks per day.

**my own notes for understanding

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. asyndeton | 6. mesodiplosis | 11. antimetabole | 16. antithesis |
| 2. polysyndeton | 7. antanaclasis | 12. deacon | 17. hypophora |
| 3. anaphora | 8. epanalepsis | 13. scesis animation | 18. ethos |
| 4. epistrophe | 9. simple | 14. amplification | 19. pathos |
| 5. anadiplosis | 10. chiasmus | 15. access | 20. logos |

B. Vocal (need 20 words—no jargon!):

1. example sentence from Podcast, TED Talk, Documentary, or **non-fiction book** {from these... learn how to write! Pay attention to how to use punctuation, how to use strategy; you will see it, you will hear it.} ** must cite source & title**

2. part of speech, 2-deep definition & 3 synonyms

3. Craft an ACADEMIC sentence of your own using this word —
something you can bring to your academic/argumentative writing {try dabbling with strategies you have learned while making your “baby bible”}

ex: iconoclast/iconoclastic

1. “The particular tone of the controversy has as much to do with Noakes himself—an instinctive iconoclast who has been clashing with his scientific peers more or less continuously for four decades now—as with his ideas.” —Alex Hutchinson, *Endure: Mind, Body, and the Curiously Elastic Limits of Human Performance*

2. noun or adj: a person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions; characterized by attack on cherished beliefs or institutions; a destroyer of images used in religious worship, in particular
syn: critic, skeptic, heretic

3. The politician’s decisions seemed iconoclastic as she continues to undermine protection for refugees, immigrants, women, blacks, members of the LGBT community. **note use of asyndeton—rather than saying “and” members of the LGBT community. {period}—the omission of the conjunction suggests that the list goes on and on and on. **note use of polysyndeton—think about the EFFECT of repeating “and” (specifically as an extended string with no commas)

See Part C on next page...

C. Commonplace book (20 entries): analysis & reflection on ideas/aphorisms that are “commonplace”—this is not a diary, this is not a travel journal. This is a place to store ideas—to think outside of your “self”—as you continue on with your academic pursuits. Please read the provided resource (“How to Keep a CommonPlace Book by Ryan Holiday) before you begin!

ex. “Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.”

Stephen Hawking (1/08/1942-03/14/2018) —English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author—an unapologetic genius faced with a disability that only served to make him more amazing. Hawking was an advocate against global warming, and, quite honestly, an idol to many. His ability to continue living in the noble effort of educating the rest of the world in the subject of science is a true example of intelligence. He looked to the future, and he measured its trajectory based on the past. He cared for this planet. He taught us to look to the world around us (not to religion or politics) for answers. His intelligence was truly shown, however, in his ability to admit that he didn’t know every answer to every question. Maybe this is a bit of the change that our world needs—to be a little less staunch in our opinions, to continue learning and teaching, to be humbled by the truth that there may not always be one definitive truth.

**Please see/read resource on next page for more info on how to approach your Commonplace book

“How And Why To Keep A Commonplace Book”

By Ryan Holiday, August 28th 2013

The other day I was reading a book and I came across a little anecdote. It was about the great Athenian general Themistocles. Before the battle of Salamis, he was locked in a vigorous debate with a Spartan general about potential strategies for defeating the Persians. Themistocles was clearly in the minority with his views (but which ultimately turned out to be right and saved Western Civilization). He continued to interrupt and contradict the other generals. Finally, the Spartan general threatened to strike Themistocles if he didn't shut up and stop. “Strike!” Themistocles shouted back, “But listen!”

When I read this, I immediately began a ritual that I have practiced for many years—and that others have done for centuries before me—I marked down the passage and later transferred it to my “commonplace book.” Why? Because it's a great line and it stood out to me. I wrote it down, I'll want to have it around for later reference, for potentially using it in my writing or work, or for possible inspiration at some point in the future.

In other posts, we've talked about how to read more, which books to read, how to read books above your level and how to write. Well, the commonplace book is a thread that runs through all those ideas. It what ties those efforts together and makes you better at each one of them.

What is a Commonplace book?

A commonplace book is a central resource or depository for ideas, quotes, anecdotes, observations and information you come across during your life and didactic pursuits. The purpose of the book is to record and organize these gems for later use in your life, in your business, in your writing, speaking or whatever it is that you do.

Some of the greatest men and women in history have kept these books. Marcus Aurelius kept one—which more or less became the *Meditations*. Petrarch kept one. Montaigne, who invented the essay, kept a handwritten compilation of sayings, maxims and quotations from literature and history that he felt were important. His earliest essays were little more than compilations of these thoughts. Thomas Jefferson kept one. Napoleon kept one. HL Mencken, who did so much for the English language, as his biographer put it, “methodically filled notebooks with incidents, recording scraps of dialog and slang” and favorite bits from newspaper columns he liked. Bill Gates keeps one. Not only did all these famous and great individuals do it. But so have common people throughout history. Our true understanding of the Civil War, for example, is a result of the spread of cheap diaries and notebooks that soldiers could record their thoughts in.

And if you still need a why—I'll let this quote from Seneca answer it (which I got from my own reading and notes):

“We should hunt out the helpful pieces of teaching and the spirited and noble-minded sayings which are capable of immediate practical application—not far far-fetched or archaic expressions or extravagant metaphors and figures of speech—and learn them so well that words become works.”

How to Do It (Right)

–Read widely. Read about anything and everything and be open to seeing what you didn't expect to be there—that's how you find the best stuff. Shelby Foote, “I can't begin to tell you the things I discovered while I was looking for something else.”

–Mark down what sticks out at you as you read—passages, words, anecdotes, stories, info. When I read, I just fold the bottom corners of the pages. If I have a pen on me, I mark the particularly passages I want to come back to. I used to use flag-it highlighters, which can be great.

–Again, take notes while you read. It's what the best readers do, period. it's called “marginalia.” For instance, John Stuart Mill hated Ralph Waldo Emerson, and we know this based on his copies of Emerson's books where he made those (private) comments. You can also see some of Mark Twain's fascinating marginalia here. Bill Gates' marginalia is public on a website he keeps called *The Gates*

Notes. It's a way to have a conversation with the book and the author. Don't be afraid to judge, criticism or exclaim as you read.

-Wisdom, not facts. We're not just looking random pieces of information. What's the point of that? Your commonplace book, over a lifetime (or even just several years), can accumulate a mass of true wisdom—that you can turn to in times of crisis, opportunity, depression or job.

-But you have to read and approach reading accordingly. Montaigne once teased the writer Erasmus, who was known for his dedication to reading scholarly works, by asking with heavy sarcasm "Do you think he is searching in his books for a way to become better, happier, or wiser?" In Montaigne's mind, if he wasn't, it was all a waste. A commonplace book is a way to keep our learning priorities in order. It motivates us to look for and keep only the things we can use.

-After you finish the book, put it down for a week or so. Let it percolate in your head. Now, return to it and review all the material you've saved and transfer the marginalia and passages to your commonplace book.

-It doesn't have to just be material from books. Movies, speeches, videos, conversations work too. Whatever. Anything good.

-Actually writing the stuff down is crucial. I know it's easier to keep a Google Doc or an Evernote project of your favorite quotes...but easy has got nothing to do with this. As Raymond Chandler put it, "when you have to use your energy to put those words down, you are more apt to make them count."

-Some of my categories for those who are curious: Life. Death. Writing. Stoicism. Strategy. Animals. Narrative Fallacy. Books. Article Ideas. Education. Arguing with Reality. Misc.

-Don't let it pile up. A lot of people mark down passages or fold pages of stuff they like. Then they put off doing anything with it. I'll tell you, nothing will make you procrastinate like seeing a giant pile of books you have to go through and take notes on it. You can avoid this by not letting it pile up. Don't go months or weeks without going through the ritual. You have to stay on top of it.

-It doesn't have to be just other people's writing. One of my favorite parts of *The Crack Up*—a mostly forgotten collection of materials from F. Scott Fitzgerald published after his death—is the random phrases and observations he made. They are aphorisms without the posturing that comes with writing for publication. So many of my notecards are just things that occurred to me, notes to myself in essence. It's your book. Use it how you want.

-Use them! Look, my commonplace book is easily justified. I write and speak about things for a living. I need this resource. But so do you. You write papers, memos, emails, notes to friends, birthday cards, give advice, have conversations at dinner, console loved ones, tell someone special how you feel about them. All these are opportunities to use the wisdom you have come across and recorded—to improve what you're doing with knowledge passed down through history.

-This is a project for a lifetime. I've been keeping my commonplace books in variety of forms for 6 or 7 years. But I'm just getting started.

-Protect it at all costs. As the historian Douglas Brinkley said about Ronald Reagan's collection of notecards: "If the Reagans' home in Palisades were burning, this would be one of the things Reagan would immediately drag out of the house. He carried them with him all over like a carpenter brings their tools. These were the tools for his trade." I couldn't have put it better myself.

-Start NOW. Don't put this off until later. Don't write me about how this is such a good idea and you wish you had the time to do it too. You do have the time. But start, now, and stop putting it off. Make it a priority. It will pay off. I promise.

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