

# Welcome to AP English Language and Composition!

We want to welcome you to AP Language! It is such a great class; you're in for a real treat! Our goal is to make you a savvy reader and writer. Working toward that goal is going to be a lot of fun, and with a positive attitude and strong work ethic, we know you will have a successful year in AP English Language. Your choice to take AP Lang demonstrates that you are on the road to a successful college career. With that in mind we want to help you learn "to write effectively, argue persuasively, solve problems creatively, and adapt and learn independently" (Falk qtd. in Turkle 247). If you have any questions about the assignment or the class, please email [Beth.Morgan@cobbk12.org](mailto:Beth.Morgan@cobbk12.org). We'll see you soon -

This summer you will be reading ONE book: **Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in the Digital Age** by Sherry Turkle and ONE essay: "Solitude and Leadership" by William Deresiewicz <https://tinyurl.com/75brzsa8>

The assignment: While you read **Reclaiming Conversation**, pay special attention to Turkle's method of arrangement which she centers on Henry David Thoreau's quote from **Walden** "I had three chairs in my house; one for solitude, two for friendship, three for society." You will read most of the book this summer, but there will be sections we skip entirely and one section we cover in August. So, you need to pay attention to the pages indicated for each task. Your task is straightforward, you will write a brief (**one to two paragraphs**) reflection for each section. **These reflections should be typed in MLA format; they will be submitted to Turnitin.com after the beginning of the school year.**

**While you're reading, please look for words that are not in your lexicon; it's really all about the words and we'd like you to add some new ones to your vocabulary this summer. Aim for at least 25 (define them!). Keep a running list with the word, the page number, and the definition.**

**Example: lexicon (summer reading sheet) – a working vocabulary of a person, so it's the words I know and use**

Section 1 – "The Case for Conversation" (3 – 56)

For your first reflection, consider your reaction to the situation at Holbrook Middle School. What are your thoughts on the "virtuous circle" Turkle discusses? In "The Flight From Conversation" section address at least three topics she brings up giving your thoughts and opinions on each. Begin your reflection with YOUR definition of *empathy* – not a definition from the dictionary, a definition from your heart and brain.

Section 2 – "One Chair" (59 – 99)

After you've read this section you will find it necessary to pause and read "Solitude and Leadership." Draw some conclusions about these two pieces in relation to one another. Has your thinking about **solitude** or **conversation** changed because of this section? Why or why not?

Sections 3 – "Two Chairs" (103 - 176)

Once again, we'd like you to reflect. The question? How has your thinking about **conversation, empathy, friendship, solitude, family**, (any and all of topics she addresses) changed as a result of what you've read?

Section 4 -- "Three Chairs" (211 -248)

This time you'll be revisiting the ideas from Section 3 - How has your thinking about **conversation, empathy, friendship, solitude, family**, (any and all of topics she addresses) changed as a result of what you've read?

Section 5 – "The Path Forward" (293 - 333)

Do you agree or disagree with her opinions about the way to move forward? Try to explain your thinking as clearly as you can.

Section 6 – "A Fourth Chair?" \*\*\* YOU WILL READ THIS SECTION ONCE YOU ARE BACK AT SCHOOL!

\*\*\* DON'T FORGET TO TRACK THE WORDS YOU LEARN \*\*\*

**Summative Assessments: Summer work will be assessed in a variety of ways, certainly the work you turn in to Turnitin.com, but also maybe a graded discussion, or an in-class write, or group work, or some combination of all of these.**

**Be prepared to turn in both your responses AND word lists during the first week of school.**