

# Nonfiction Book List

As an introduction to sophisticated and serious non fiction and to prepare for the aspects of the Language & Composition Advanced Placement exam requiring students to display a broader knowledge of the controversial issues facing contemporary society, students will complete a nonfiction reading assignment.

**Step 1.** With the guidance of parents and guardians, choose a nonfiction book from the list below. Fields of study explored in this list include: economics, political science, history, anthropology, sociology, and psychology.

- The 9-11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.*
- Ariely, Dan. *Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions.*
- Birkerts, Sven. *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*
- Bowe, John. *Nobodies: Modern American Slave Labor and the Dark Side of the Global Economy.*
- Brownstein, Ronald. *The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America.*
- Callahan, David. *The Cheating Culture.*
- Critchlow, Donald. *The Conservative Ascendancy: How the GOP Right Made Political History.*
- Dawkins, Richard. *The God Delusion*
- Dawkins, Richard. *God is Not Great*
- Dexter, Gary. *Why Not Catch-21? The Stories Behind the Titles.*
- Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed.*
- Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs and Steel.*
- Douglas, Susan J. *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female in the Mass Media* by
- Durham, M. Gigi. *The Lolita Effect: The Media Sexualization of Young Girls and What We Can Do About It*
- Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*
- Ellis, Joseph. *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic.*
- Friedman, Thomas L. *Lexus and the Olive Tree*
- Friedman, Thomas L. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century.*
- Freidman, Thomas L. *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and...*
- Foer, Franklin. *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization.*
- Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor.*
- Frank, Robert H. *The Economic Naturalist: In Search of Explanations for Everyday Enigmas.*
- Frank, Robert H. *Falling Behind: How Rising Inequality Harms the Middle Class.*
- Friedberg, Aaron. *In the Shadow of the Garrison State.*
- Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink.*
- Gladwell, Malcolm. *The Tipping Point.*
- Glassner, Barry. *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things.*
- Keller, Morton. *America's Three Regimes: A New Political History.*
- Lilla, Mark. *The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West.*
- Loewen, James. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong.*
- Jacobs, A.J. *The Year of Living Biblically*
- Jacobs, A.J. *The Know-It-All*
- Jacobs, Jane. *Dark Age Ahead.*
- Johnson, Steven. *Everything Bad is Good*
- Kozol, Jonathan. *The Shame of the Nation.*
- Lencioni, Patrick. *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable.*
- Levitt, Steven. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything.*
- Montague, Read. *Your Brain is (Almost) Perfect: How We Make Decisions.*
- Needleman, Jacob. *The American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders.*
- Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma.*

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*  
Royte, Elizabeth. *Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash.*  
Sachs, Jeffrey. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time.*  
Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation.*  
Schlosser, Eric. *Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market.*  
Simmons, Rachel. *The Curse of the Good Girl*  
Stout, Martha. *The Paranoia Switch: How Terror Rewires Our Brains and Reshapes Our Behavior—and How We Can Reclaim Our Courage.*  
Stout, Martha. *The Sociopath Next Door.*  
Szanto, Andreas. *What Orwell Didn't Know: Propaganda and the New Face of American Politics.*  
Tapscott, Don and Anthony D. Williams. *Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything.*  
Thomas, Cal and Bob Beckel. *Common Ground: How to Stop the Partisan War That Is Destroying America.*  
Toobin, Jeffrey. *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court.*  
Van Hecke, Madeleine. *Blind Spots: Why Smart People Do Dumb Things.*  
Weisman, Alan. *The World Without Us.*  
Wilson, Edward O. *The Future of Life.*  
Winograd, Morley and Michael D. Hais. *Millennial Makeover: MySpace, YouTube, and the Future of American Politics.*  
Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present.*

---

**Choose a different author second semester.**

**OR Choose your own book**, but be sure to clear it with your teacher: Works of historical scholarship germane to one or more contemporary issues, or works of philosophical scholarship germane to one or more contemporary issues will be approved. Religious philosophy is acceptable if the book's thesis supports a religious tradition different from your own.

**Please avoid all of the following:** memoirs (Vonnegut's *A Man Without a Country*), pop culture books, political hit books (Maher, O'Reilly, Dobbs), self-help books (Dr. Phil, Dr. Laura), and new age books (*The Celestine Prophecy*). The goal is to choose well-researched works of scholarship.

**Note:** Many of the books are available as audio books, and could perhaps be downloaded to an iPod.

**Step 2.** Pick 3 books and create three "one pager" author biographies with works cited. Because you can't all read the same book, you need to have "back-up" books. After grading your "one pagers" I will tell you if you get your first, second, or third choice book. (So, make sure you impress me with your perfect MLA format and thorough research skills).

**Step 3:** Read the book and take notes. Complete text connections; you should average one connection every 10 pages. One CD may be used to make different types of connections.

**Step 4.** When finished with the book, turn in your notes/connections.

Deadline for reading: \_(TBA)\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5.** During the semester you will be assigned an expository research paper that will include an author biography and academic criticism/praise of the non-fiction piece you chose. Like your "following a critic" project, you will evaluate the author's content, style, and argument.