

**Advanced Placement English Language and Composition**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**  
**2019-2020**

**Task:** You are to carefully read and annotate *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* (Stephen King) and *Into the Wild* (Jon Krakauer). **If you complete the readings sporadically throughout the summer, you will find that the amount of reading you are doing is rather reasonable. If you wait until the last few days of summer and then try to do it all at one shot, this is going to seem like a huge, onerous task.** Additionally, cramming it all in at once means you're just going through the motions and missing the point of the assignment. You've *chosen* to take a high level thinking course; do you really want to start out taking all of the shortcuts? If shortcuts are your thing, do you *really* want to be in a college level course?

Below are the guidelines for annotating. **You must bring your annotated texts to class during the first week of class as you will be assessed on these texts using an AP exam style prompt or alternative assessment.**

**Guidelines for Annotating Text**

What should you annotate? Here is a list of things you should be annotating your text for as you read. *Highlighting and underlining alone do not make for annotations.* Your annotations must demonstrate your engagement with the text and must include comments. Use the margins of the book, the blank pages, and Post-It Notes.

- ✓ Ask questions (essential to active reading).
- ✓ Identify and comment on lines/quotations you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful.
- ✓ Express agreement or disagreement.
- ✓ Connect ideas to each other or to other texts.
- ✓ Note if you experience an epiphany.
- ✓ Write a bulleted synopsis of each chapter either on the first or last page of the chapter or act.
- ✓ Note how the author uses language. Note the significance if you can:
  - ❖ effects of word choice (diction) or sentence structure or type (syntax)
  - ❖ point of view / effect
  - ❖ repetition of words, phrases, actions, events, patterns
  - ❖ narrative pace / time / order of sequence of events
  - ❖ irony
  - ❖ contrasts / contradictions / juxtapositions / shifts
  - ❖ allusions
  - ❖ any other figure of speech or literary device
  - ❖ motifs or cluster ideas
  - ❖ tone / mood
  - ❖ imagery
  - ❖ themes
  - ❖ setting / historical period
  - ❖ symbols

The most common complaint about annotating is that it slows down your reading. Yes, it does. That's the point. If annotating as you read annoys you, read a chapter, then go back and annotate. Reading a text a second time is preferable anyway. Approach the works with an open mind. Let them inspire you and stretch your imagination.