

English III AP and GT Summer Assignment

That's right; you're in AP English now! To get you geared up, your summer assignment comes, in part, from an AP English Language and Composition Exam. Here's one of the prompts from the 2009 exam:

“In his 2004 book, *Status Anxiety*, Alain de Botton argues that the chief aim of humorists is not merely to entertain but to ‘convey with impunity messages that might be dangerous or impossible to state directly.’ Because society allows humorists to say things that other people cannot or will not say, de Botton sees humorists as serving a vital function in society. Think about the implications of de Botton’s view of the role of humorists (cartoonists, stand-up comics, satirical writers, hosts of television programs, etc.). Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies de Botton’s claim about the vital role of humorists. Use specific, appropriate evidence to develop your position.”

Part One:

Task (what YOU need to do):

1. Write an essay of at least 500 words in length that addresses the prompt above (type it if possible).
2. Select at least one example (cartoon, stand-up comedy routine, satirical essay, television program, etc.) that supports your argument.
3. Bring your essay and your source with you on the THIRD DAY of school (you can bring it on the first day, but you don't need it until the THIRD).
4. Create a list of at least 10 new vocabulary words, their definitions, and original sentences based on this prompt, your source, and/or your essay. These should be any words about whose meaning you're unclear.

YOU need to know:

- A. To DEFEND an argument means to agree with it and to explain why it is correct, valid, or reasonable.
- B. To CHALLENGE an argument means to disagree with it and to explain why it is incorrect, invalid, or unreasonable.
- C. To QUALIFY an argument means to agree with part but not all of it and to explain how it would need to be changed, modified, adapted, or better supported in order to be fully correct.
- D. This is about your opinion so take a stand!!!

Part Two:

After having completed your AP US History summer assignment, use *The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court, and the Betrayal of Reconstruction* by Charles Lane to complete the following task:

Task (what YOU need to do):

1. Identify three important passages in the book.
2. Record those passages in a word document.
3. Write an explanation in your own words for each passage describing why each passage is important to/in the book.

Please complete the two tasks on separate documents. In other words, you will enter your Junior English class with two completed essays.