**English 11AP Summer Assignment:**

The opening paragraph of the course description for AP English Language and Composition reads as follows:

The AP Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who can compose for a variety of purposes. By their writing and reading in this course, students should become aware of the interaction among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subject, as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing.

Please purchase and read *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. A digital copy would be fine – it should be available in the schook Kindle account. If you buy a print copy, this edition is the one you should buy: [https://www.amazon.com/Grapes-Wrath-John-Steinbeck/dp/0143039431/ref=sr\_1\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1465558648&sr=1-1&keywords=the+grapes+of+wrath](https://www.amazon.com/Grapes-Wrath-John-Steinbeck/dp/0143039431/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1465558648&sr=1-1&keywords=the+grapes+of+wrath)

Then, address the following as instructed:

*The Grapes of Wrath* follows the cross-country journey of the Joad family as they move from their home state of Oklahoma to the “promised land” of California. The novel has an unconventional structure, as it intersperses the plot story of the Joad family with intercalary chapters that offer general commentary on the plight of migrants. The first of these chapters, Chapter 1, describes the conditions in Oklahoma that drive the Joads to leave, and chapter 29, the last intercalary chapter, describes the conditions in California as the journey nears its end. Using the course description statement as a guideline, thoroughly analyze these two chapters and explore how the choices made by the author helps him to further his ideas. Given that you will have read this novel by the time you begin writing, you should be able to explore how these chapters suggest what Steinbeck’s purposes might be, evaluate what the expectations of the reader should be, and demonstrate how the “conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing.” You should be specific in showing HOW the author connects his craft to his goals.

The best essays will do the following:

1. Establish a thesis that encompasses your perspective
2. Analyze the material rather than repeat it or evaluate it
3. Focus on HOW the author achieves meaning through his specific choices
4. Present material intelligently and carefully
5. Incorporate source material purposefully

This assignment should be approximately five typed pages, double-spaced. Do not exceed five pages unless you have something of critical importance that justifies that length.

This assignment will be due on Thursday, August 31, 2017.

Additionally, please READ and ANNOTATE the five critical articles on *The Grapes of Wrath* that are posted at gnnhsenglish.weebly.com. You will be given an opportunity to show how well you’ve read these pieces during an in-class exam to be administered the second week of school. You will be allowed to use the annotated copies of these documents during this exam.