

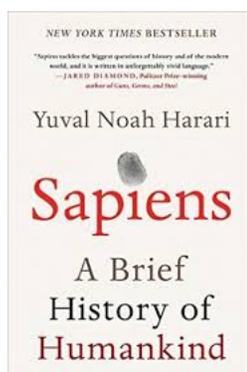
AP Language Summer Reading

Harari's *Sapiens A Brief History of Humankind* and Seminar Choice Book

Welcome to Advanced Placement English Language and Composition! This year we will be exploring *how* a writer's purpose, audience, subject, and genre contribute to effective writing (AP Central). We'll look at what makes a piece worth reading or viewing and the role rhetoric plays in making it a memorable work.

We will begin our year with Summer Reading. You are required to read **Yuval Noah Harari's book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Tuesday, August 24, 2021.**

Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*



One hundred thousand years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Yet today there is only one—homo sapiens. What happened to the others? And what may happen to us?

Most books about the history of humanity pursue either a historical or a biological approach, but Dr. Yuval Noah Harari breaks the mold with this highly original book that begins about 70,000 years ago with the appearance of modern cognition. From examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires, *Sapiens* integrates history and science to reconsider accepted narratives, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and examine specific events within the context of larger ideas.

Dr. Harari also compels us to look ahead, because over the last few decades humans have begun to bend laws of natural selection that have governed life for the past four billion years. We are acquiring the ability to design not only the world around us, but also ourselves. Where is this leading us, and what do we want to become?

Reading Objective: To gain further insight into how humankind has evolved over the years. The knowledge obtained through a close-reading of this text will prepare you for each of the writing tasks you'll encounter on the advanced placement exam. AP graders are looking for sophisticated writing that includes a deeper understanding of the world around you; this text is one work that can get you to that place of higher-level knowledge. Therefore, it's imperative that you read the text with a critical eye, making meaningful annotations that will aid in your ability to both write and speak on the material when we return in the fall.

***Sapiens* Assignment Details:**

1. While reading, you may take **handwritten** notes (on paper, on sticky note, whatever format works for you, but they may **not** be typed) that can be used during an assessment of your novel when you return to school. While these notes are not required, they will be helpful when being assessed on your content knowledge of the novel.
2. Upon your return to school, you will be assessed on the text through a **presentation** that will be delivered to your peers and an **in-class essay**. You are permitted to use your notes for both of these assessments. The essay prompt will come directly from a practice AP Language Exam.

Your text must be read by the first day of school, Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the assignment, please contact Mr. Larsen:
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