

# AP Language & Composition: Summer Reading Assignment *On Writing* by Stephen King Mr. Fontanarosa

This summer we will be studying *On Writing* by Stephen King. This book, while not complex, offers insight into the mind of one of America's most prolific authors. In the book, King outlines his life story, how it led to him becoming an author, and then some insight into some of the tools that make him successful.

It is highly recommended that you secure a copy of the book because you will be annotating the entire piece; a .pdf of entire the book can be found at [http://biblioteka.teatr-obraz.ru/files/file/English\\_cinema/Stephen\\_King\\_On\\_Writing.pdf](http://biblioteka.teatr-obraz.ru/files/file/English_cinema/Stephen_King_On_Writing.pdf), or you may borrow a copy from a public library. In any case, you must keep track of your ideas, either by annotating the original text, or by taking notes in a separate journal. If you choose to take notes in a journal, maintain page numbers so that we can easily cross-reference your journaled thoughts with the text in the book. Your annotations will be due the first day of class.

**Annotating** The purpose of annotating is for you to delve into the deeper meaning of the work. Annotations that just recount what is happening in the story are pretty useless and are little proof of true understanding of the piece. In Honors/AP the point of annotations is to analyze the literature. For this purpose, we ask that you use different colored ink to represent different aspects of the story.

- **Color 1:** Vocabulary – Reading helps us acquire new vocabulary. Circle each word that you do not know and then define it in the margins.
- **Color 2:** Literary Devices – This is where you acknowledge the different devices that the author is using to convey a message to the audience. It is not enough just to label them.
  - If you identify something as symbolism, be prepared to discuss what idea it is symbolizing.
  - What is the author trying to do with their use of these devices?
- **Color 3:** Themes – Identify parts of the piece that develop the authors overall theme. Discuss the how the author is adding to it throughout the novel.
- **Color 4:** Connections – Connect the ideas found in the novel to present day, to other literature, to you.
- **Color 5:** Questions – Write down questions that the piece makes you ponder. Write down questions that you have while reading. As you read through it again answer your question if you can or bring it up in class.

**Assignment:** After reading the book, you will write a 650 word narrative essay. This essay will serve as your introduction to me. I would like your essay to utilize some of the tips that King suggests. This will also serve as one part of my diagnostic test on your writing skills.

Because this essay is being written at home there should be several drafts of it. In addition to handing in a final draft, you should also turn in at least one working draft, with revisions vividly indicated on the draft. More than one revised draft is preferred. The final version should be as close to perfect as you can make it.

This essay must be typed and follow MLA format. If you are uncertain of what MLA format is, look it up at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>. Essays will be collected on the first day of class. It must be evident that you emulated some of the ideas that you learned from King's book.

There is some harsh language in the book. If you, or your parents, are uncomfortable with that please contact Mr. Fontanarosa at [fontamc@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:fontamc@nv.ccsd.net) for an alternate assignment.