



MILLER SCHOOL  
of ALBEMARLE

## Summer Reading Assignment

**Course:** AP English 11 – AP English Language / American Literature

**Grade:** 11th

**Teacher:** Dr. Jason Nabi

**Email:** jnabi@millerschool.org

**Required Book:** *Current Issues and Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking and Argument*, by Sylvan Barnet, Hugo Bedau, and John O’Hara (ISBN: 978-1319035471)

Don’t judge a book by its title! The title of our summer reading book doesn’t quite do it justice, for not only is it the most authoritative resource about critical thinking that you will ever encounter, it is the most interesting and wide-ranging. One minute you’ll be reading about Shakespeare and Plato, the next you’ll be pondering the connection between Facebook and the nature of happiness.

Your assignment this summer will jump-start you down the path of mastering the skills of critical thinking and writing. Not only will these skills prepare you for total domination of the AP English Language and Composition Exam next spring, they are the most important skills you can have – no matter what major you declare in college and no matter what profession you ultimately choose.

### Assignment details:

Read in its entirety Chapter 11: “A Literary Critic’s View: Arguing About Literature” (pp. 384-408).

Respond in writing to **all** of the “Topics” prompts (these appear on pages 397, 398-99, 401-2, 403-4, 407-8, and 408). Please note that there are **30** prompts in total.

This might seem like a lot of writing, but you can save yourself some time by being as *concise* as possible in your answers. *Less is more* in this assignment, so keep these tips in mind:

- Often a single sentence can serve as a sufficient answer to a question.
- If the prompt asks for a certain word count, you should halve it (e.g., if it asks for 250-500 words, you should shoot for a 125- to 200-word answer).

Please email me with any questions! I’m looking forward to seeing what you make of this assignment. Don’t be afraid to have fun with it!

**Your typewritten assignment is due on the first day of class.**

**You will submit it electronically using the email given above (no print-out necessary).**