Assignment I

On the AP Language and Composition Exam, you will be asked to read various contemporary and pre-twentieth century non-fiction passages. To gain some exposure to this aspect of the course, you should read the passage posted with this summer reading assignment and answer the corresponding questions (questions will pertain to meaning, structure, rhetorical function, diction, research, tone, and figurative language). For each question, write a brief justification for the selected answer. This can be done in the margins next to each question.

**Bring the printed multiple choice passage with your answer justifications to class on the first day of school.**
Assignment II

Throughout this year, we will be analyzing the use of rhetoric in a variety of genres to prepare you for the AP Language and Composition test. While the majority of the reading we do will come from non-fiction texts, novels, plays, poetry, and short stories also offer insight into the ways in which humans rely on language to persuade, argue a point, and share common experiences.

Your second summer reading task is to read the play *Julius Caesar*, by William Shakespeare. You will find that this play, inspired by actual history, centers around the complexities of language and how it can be used to manipulate, galvanize, and persuade.

After reading the play, you should choose **TWO** speeches from the list below to analyze for its use of persuasive and rhetorical techniques. Determine what the speaker was trying to accomplish and how they used language to achieve this purpose. You should submit 1-2 pages for EACH speech (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, 1” margins). Your analysis should refer to specific lines from each speech to support your ideas. **Your understanding of the importance of this speech within the context of the play as a whole should be apparent.**

**Line numbers may be approximate depending on the edition you choose.**

Act I, scene 2, lines 136-162 (Cassius: Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world...)

Act 2, scene 1, lines 260-277, and 290-301 (Portia: Is Brutus sick? And is it physical...)

Act 3, scene 2, lines 12-39 (Brutus: Be patient till the last...)

Act 3, scene 2, lines 73-108 (Antony: Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears)

Act 4, scene 2, lines 147-161 (Cassius: Come, Antony and young Octavius, come...)

A list of commonly used rhetorical devices can be found at the link below:

http://rhetoric.byu.edu/

**Your analysis of each speech is due on the first day of school and should be printed.**