Welcome to AP Language and Composition, a course that is designed to make you a stronger reader, writer, and analyzer! In AP Lang, our main objective is to break down the arguments that authors create (rhetorical analysis), and to create our own arguments using post-secondary sophistication and style (argumentation).

The summer reading and writing assignments outlined below are designed to demonstrate your ability as a reader, critical analyzer, and writer. It is imperative that you come to class on the first day with detailed familiarity of the novel, and a well written introduction letter. These assignments will help your teacher to identify where our collective strengths lie, as well as where we need to focus our efforts.

Required reading:
All AP Lang students are expected to read the following:

1. The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

2. Optional Enrichment Reading: If you are a voracious reader, or a scholar who enjoys a challenge, the following list of memoirs are recommended for enrichment and familiarity with the genre of narrative nonfiction. You certainly are not required to read any of them, but doing so will help to immerse you in a variety of styles, messages, and rhetorical moves that will help you to become a better scholar of rhetoric (rhetorician).

   - John Adams by David McCullough
   - The Autobiography of Malcolm X
   - The Color of Water by James McBride
   - Death be not Proud by John J. Gunther
   - The Pianist by Wladyslaw Szpilman
   - Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt

Writing Task: The Introduction Letter
As you read The Other Wes Moore, keep in mind the following list of “BIG” questions.

- What does the word “identity” mean? What are some of the ways in which people identify themselves?
- Some identities can be seen by others and other identities are only known to others if the individual chooses to share it. What are some of the identities that you can usually “see”? What are some identities that you might not be able to see?
- How much control do we have in shaping our own identity?
- What experiences and events have shaped your own identity?
- How would you define your own identity?
- To what extent does your identity reflect your family, your history, or your culture?

**After reading our novel, and considering Wes Moore’s message – write your teacher a letter introducing yourself.** Your letter can be very concise and focused, or rather holistic (as the kids say – “meta”). The key here, is to create an authentic introduction letter that shows your teacher a bit of who you are (your identity), and to support it with evidence from your personal experiences, knowledge, and reading. We are purposefully leaving this assignment a bit vague, but here are some things to consider:

- Follow a formal letter format, or don’t, but be sure to write with your target audience in mind (audience will determine tone and approach).
- Play around with syntax (sentence structures) and diction (word choice) to demonstrate your best writer’s craft.
- Since this letter is about you and your identity, you are free to use “I”. Enjoy!
- Vivid imagery will help your reader (me), to connect with your story telling. Be liberal with figurative language!
- Length – one or more full pages. Don’t feel constrained by a page limit, but try not to write a novel.
- Your letter will be worth 50 mastery points, so implement care in its creation.