

**Due Date:** First Block Day of the Year

## AP Language & Composition Summer Reading

Students enrolled in AP Language and Composition must read Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*, read a second nonfiction book of their choice, and keep up with current events throughout the summer. Students will need to purchase a copy of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, which can be found on [Amazon](#) or at other stores. Students should complete each assignment in the same Google Doc using MLA formatting.

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### Part 1: Read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

*In 1995, Albom is a successful sports columnist for the Detroit Free Press. After seeing his former sociology professor Morrie Schwartz appear on Nightline, Albom phones Schwartz and is prompted to visit him in Massachusetts. A coincidental newspaper strike allows Albom to visit Schwartz every week, on Tuesdays. After being diagnosed with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Morrie's final days are spent giving his former student Mitch his final lesson of life.*

**Write a 2 paragraph response** in MLA formatting after you finish the book. Read the entire book before school begins. I recommend annotating as you read (underline confusing and/or favorite passages, highlight interesting information, and comment on significant language). During the course of the book, Morrie and Mitch talk about major life issues: the world, feeling sorry for yourself, regrets, death, family, emotion, aging, money, love, marriage, culture, forgiveness, and the perfect day. Choose two issues, and write a paragraph on each one (at least five sentences of analysis in each paragraph). Start with a topic sentence that provides a main idea identifying the major life issue you are choosing. Then put a direct quotation from the story that is particularly elegant, meaningful, or insightful (place quotation marks around it and put the page number(s) in parenthesis). Then analyze it. Discuss what it means: why it is important, how did this apply to Morrie, why is this so insightful, and how does this apply to you? No need for an introduction or conclusion.

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### Part 2: Read a Nonfiction Book of Your Choice

**Choose one nonfiction book** and read the entire book before school begins. You can choose one from this [list](#), or find one on your own.

**Write a 2 paragraph response** that includes a personal response, analysis, and questions that emerged from your reading. Do not merely summarize. Use the following questions as a guide: What do I know/understand now that I did not before? How did this book change the way I think about something? What is a thought, idea, or perspective that I might not have considered if I had not encountered this book? Are there any connections to *Tuesdays with Morrie*?

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### Part 3: Stay Informed With Current Events

Stay connected with the world by following current events throughout the summer. **Choose one source to read during each month of summer: June, July, and August.** These can be from newspapers, news apps, or news websites. Consider keeping up with events at the global, national, and/or local levels.

**Keep a log of 3 entries on current events** (1 for June, 1 for July, and 1 for August). Each entry should include: The date of the event and the source that you read from; a 1-2 sentence summary of the article or event; a brief response/reflection of the article or event: What issues are being raised? Why does it matter? Are there any connections to *Tuesdays with Morrie* or your chosen nonfiction book?

## MLA Guidelines

Modern Language Association (MLA) is an organization that provides guidelines for how to format the structure of a paper, which provides uniformity and clarity to the reader. These guidelines are to be used for all typed papers at OCS (unless directed otherwise).

- Type the paper using Google Docs or Microsoft Word.
- Type the paper using **12-point font size** and **Times New Roman font style**.
- Change the line spacing to **double-space**.
- Create a **Left Corner Header** on the *first page only*:
  - Your Name
  - Teacher's Name (Miss Reynolds)
  - Subject (AP Language and Composition)
  - Due Date (20 August 2026)
- Create a **Right Corner Header** on *every page*: your Last Name and the page number
- Make sure the **title of the paper** (Summer Reading Assignment or make your own creative title) is center-aligned and in 12pt, Times New Roman font. It should not be bold, underlined, or italicized.
- **Indent** the first line of each new paragraph using the “tab” button on your keyboard.