May 7, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

The focus of AP Language and Composition is nonfiction reading and becoming a world scholar, so in preparation for this type of reading we are asking you to listen to one podcast from list below and to continue to listen to new episodes from this podcast over the summer.

- 99% Invisible: 99% Invisible is about all the thought that goes into the things we don’t think about — the unattended architecture and design that shape our world.

- This American Life: Primarily a journalistic non-fiction program, it has also featured essays, memoirs, field recordings, short fiction, and found footage.

- The Moth: Since its launch in 1997, The Moth has presented thousands of true stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. Moth storytellers stand alone, under a spotlight, with only a microphone and a roomful of strangers. The storyteller and the audience embark on a high-wire act of shared experience which is both terrifying and exhilarating.

- Radiolab: Radiolab is a show about curiosity. Where sound illuminates ideas, and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy, and human experience.

- StarTalk Radio: Radio program devoted to all things space and is hosted by renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson

- Hidden Brain: Shankar Vedantam uses science and storytelling to reveal the unconscious patterns that drive human behavior, shape our choices and direct our relationships.

- Revisionist History: Revisionist History is Malcolm Gladwell’s journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past—an event, a person, an idea, even a song—and asks whether we got it right the first time.

- Criminal: Criminal is a podcast about crime. Stories of people who’ve done wrong, been wronged, or gotten caught somewhere in the middle.

- Freakonomics Radio: Have fun discovering the hidden side of everything with host Stephen J. Dubner, co-author of the best-selling “Freakonomics” books. Each week, hear surprising conversations that explore the riddles of everyday life and the weird wrinkles of human nature—from cheating and crime to parenting and sports.

- Invisibilia: Invisibilia (Latin for invisible things) is about the invisible forces that control human behavior – ideas, beliefs, assumptions and emotions.

- Serial: Using investigative journalism, Koenig narrates a nonfiction story over multiple episodes.

- The Habitat: On a remote mountain in Hawaii, there’s a fake planet Mars. Six volunteers are secluded in an imitation Mars habitat where they will work as imitation astronauts for one very real year. The goal: to help NASA understand what life might be like on the red planet—and plan for the day when the dress rehearsals are over, and we blast off for real.

- StartUp: StartUp is a podcast series about what it’s really like to get a business off the ground.
TED Radio Hour: A journey through fascinating ideas: astonishing inventions, fresh approaches to old problems, new ways to think and create.

Planet Money: The economy, explained, with stories and surprises.

HowStuffWorks: Stuff You Should Know: The podcast educates listeners on a wide variety of topics, often using popular culture as a reference giving the podcast comedic value.

The Science of Success: The Science of Success is about the search for evidence based personal growth. It’s about exploring ways to improve your decision-making, understand your mind and how psychology rules the world around you, and learn from experts and thought leaders about ways we can become better versions of ourselves.

Nova: NOVA brings you short audio stories from the world of science — anything from hurricanes to mummies to neutrinos.

Rationally Speaking: Explores the borderlands between reason and nonsense, likely and unlikely, and science and pseudoscience.

Assignment 1:
As you listen to these podcasts, complete three Podcast Response Worksheets on three different episodes. The three Podcast Response Worksheets are attached.

*Podcast Response Worksheets will be due August 15th. *

Assignment 2:
When you return from summer vacation, you will be creating a PowerPoint presentation on your favorite episode that you listened to over the summer. The parameters of this presentation are below.

*Presentations will be due August 20th unless there is an issue with computer distribution.*

Presentation Guidelines

1. Provide an overview of the podcast that you have been listening to over the summer (1 slide).
2. Provide a summary of your favorite episode (1-2 slides).
3. Identify the major claim made in the episode (1 slide).
4. Identify the grounds used in the episode to support the major claim (1 slide).
5. Evaluate the major claim and the grounds: In what ways are the major claim and grounds effective? Are there any ways in which they are ineffective? Would you defend or challenge the major claim? How would you go about defending or challenging the major claim? What further questions do you have about the major claim or grounds?

*You may present the presentation for extra credit. Please see your teacher for more information when we return from summer break.*
Podcast Response Worksheet

Student Name:______________________________________ Date:_______________

Title of Podcast:______________________________________________________________________

Date of Episode Posting:_______________________________

Episode Host:_______________________________________________________

Guest Speakers in the Episode:___________________________________________________________

What was the major claim of the episode?
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What were some of the grounds(evidence) used to support the major claim made in the episode?
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What was one main point of interest to you in the episode, and why?
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Podcast Response Worksheet

Student Name:______________________________________ Date:_______________

Title of Podcast:________________________________________________________________________

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Podcast Response Worksheet

Student Name: ___________________________ Date: ______________

Title of Podcast: ____________________________________________________________

Date of Episode Posting: __________________________

Episode Host: _______________________________________________________________

Guest Speakers in the Episode: ________________________________________________

What was the major claim of the episode?

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What were some of the grounds(evidence) used to support the major claim made in the episode?

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What was one main point of interest to you in the episode, and why?

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If you need help subscribing to a podcast, please refer to the following websites to help give you step-by-step instructions:

How to Subscribe to a Podcast on iTunes: [http://www.wikihow.com/Subscribe-to-Podcasts-With-iTunes](http://www.wikihow.com/Subscribe-to-Podcasts-With-iTunes)


Thank you for your help in making Fountain-Fort Carson High School successful. If you have any questions, please e-mail Mr. Jones at ajones@ffc8.org.

Thank you.

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