

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignments

1. Lesser-known Conflicts

General: Both the required synthesis and argumentative essays on the AP Lang. test call for providing specific and detailed examples to provide support for your claims. With that in mind, you are going to start a mini database for yourself.

- Due Date: September 14, 2026.
- This assignment will be graded and count towards your fall trimester grade. T
- This is not group-work, so complete the assignment on your own.
- You may not use AI for this assignment.
- Ensure you are following MLA requirements so that you do not plagiarize: keep in mind if you take something word-for-word use quotation marks and cite; if paraphrasing, just cite.
- Submission: A TurnItIn drop-box will be available in the Fall.

Prompt: Research a conflict in Central America, South America, or Africa that you are not familiar with. Provide a short summary of the conflict and its outcome. Then highlight three to five significant battles and/or take-overs and/or strategies and/or people. Present the information in a table format (see the example below, but if you have a preferred format, feel free to use it). You must provide an MLA formatted* works cited entry on the table. You need to make connections and offer analysis. (approximately 4 to 6 hours to complete)

United States Revolution				
Summary	Event or Person	Unique Information	Citation* (Purdue OWL provides excellent tutorials on the MLA format)	Connections and Analysis.
England incurred “massive debt” fighting the Seven Years War in North America.	Minister George Grenville dusted off the “Molasses Act of 1733”	This act, which charged a “six pence per gallon duty on molasses [the basis of rum]” actually resulted in a “lucrative smuggling trade. But Grenville	The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. (2026). <i>The American Revolution: Revenue Acts</i> . The American Revolution.	One the one hand, Grenville was only enforcing a law that already existed: this is reminiscent of many towns that have laws on the books but that are frequently not enforced. For example, in several towns in Bergen County, NJ there is a 10:00 pm curfew for anyone aged 16 and under where they are not allowed out after that time unless accompanied by an adult. While it

England decided the colonies needed to now provide funds to its own defense.		cracked down on the smuggling, including boarding ships thought to be smuggling as well as entering and searching homes thought to have smuggled goods (Colonial). This began a series of other taxation acts which led to a complaint of taxation without representation.	https://www.ouramericanrevolution.org/index.cfm/page/view/p0032 . Accessed 6 June 2026.	seems this law is almost never enforced, this curfew is always observed on Cabbage night and on Halloween night in several towns. What would happen if the town started enforcing this law and then used it as a precedent to start creating other restrictive laws?
The Boston Tea Party: The Sons of Liberty destroyed the tea cargo of Britain's East India Company as a protest to taxation b/c colonists	The Boston Tea Party: Thomas Melvill	Thomas Melvill (his grandson, Herman Melville, would write <i>Moby Dick</i>) was active throughout the revolution serving under Crafts in the artillery branch. Melvill would also become a customs inspector and a Massachusetts House of Representatives at	<i>Five Facts You Didn't Know about the Boston Tea Party</i> . Boston Tea Party Ships and Museums. https://www.bostonteapartyship.com . Accessed 6 June 2026.	Melvill and all who raided that tea ship showed tremendous courage. It would seem it would have taken quite a bit of searching one's conscience to determine whether or not to defy the King's laws. They knew they were literally risking their lives as this was considered an act of treason (Five). It makes one wonder what the wives of these men, and perhaps even their children, had to say about it? Or, did they even know? Regardless, it was indeed quite brave and one cannot help but wonder what country the USA would look like in 2026 were it not for the raiders of the Boston Tea Party?

had been getting their tea smuggled in from the Dutch		age 80. He died at age 81.		
The Ride of Sybil Ludington: In a driving rainstorm, riding over 40 miles, and unlike Paul Revere who was captured, Sybil managed to get word out to muster troops where they were successfully able to stop the British at Ridgefield,	Sybil Ludington	Sybil was only 16 years old when she rode through the woods and driving rain to muster troops. Her story was relatively unknown all the way up until 1961 when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) commissioned a statue of her heroic ride (Sybil).	<i>Sybil Ludington</i>. American Battlefield Trust. https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/sybil-ludington. Accessed 7 June 2026. Wakerman, Gregory. <i>Who was the Teen Girl Known as the 'Female Paul Revere'?</i> History: American Revolution. https://History.com. Accessed 6 June 2026.	This is interesting on a number of points. It makes it pretty clear that a poem ("Paul Revere's Ride by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow") can really skew history as it would seem that Ludington's ride was more arduous and successful than was Revere's. It also demonstrates how differently the "US military" worked at that time as she rode to gather up the farmers, etc., because these men could not leave their farms untended to go and fight the war (she rode in April of 1777 [Sybil]). It also demonstrates that a 16-year-old young lady was entrusted with such weighty responsibilities, so it truly was an "all hands-on deck" situation during the Revolution. One can't help but wonder what other roles Sybil likely played in the Revolution both prior to and post this ride. Prior to because surely she was sent out quickly and without much time if any to prepare: the British were coming and she needed to get the word out. If they let her take on this task, she had to have been familiar with where the revolutionaries' farms were; she had to have known how to

Connecticut (Wakerman).				get to these varied locations; and she had to be a heck of a horsewoman.
Attempted Kidnapping /Assassination of George Washington: Loyalists wanted to get rid of GW and felt GW's bodyguard "elite life guard" (Meehan), Thomas Hickey would be the perfect person to do so. The plot was uncovered and Hickey was subsequently hanged	Thomas Hickey	Not well known that there was a conspiracy to kill GW. Hickey is the only one in the plot who was sentenced to hanging because he "poisoned [Washington's] peas", but the server revealed the poison to GW, so the peas were fed to chickens who died from the poison (Meehan). Why? Likely Hickey was ambitious, but it has also been pointed out that the Patriots were a ragtag group. Ill-fed, ill-clothed, and likely most believed they would lose to the superior (in training, weaponry,	Diamond, Anna. <i>The Plot to Kill George Washington</i>. Smithsonian Magazine, December 2018. https://smithsonianmag.com. Accessed 6 June 2026. Meehan, Jim. <i>Thomas Hickey: George Washington's Wethersfield Kidnapper</i>. Wethersfield Historical Society. https://wethersfieldhistory.org. Accessed 6 June 2026.	It's understandable that loyalists may have wanted to get rid of GW, but Hickey was one of GW's "life guards." Perhaps GW was not as good a judge of character as he thought as allegedly the life guards were hand-picked (Meehan). But based on Hickey's bragging in jail about his role, it seems a fair assumption that Hickey was a braggart and an ambitious man. Lots of life lessons in this one. It reminds all that war really is hell where one can be betrayed by those closest to them. It speaks of betrayal putting into question how loyal were people to the cause? It is known that not everybody was on board with breaking away from Great Britain, so this incident does serve as a reminder that a determined group with strong leadership can still conquer a giant despite less training, weaponry, and even with a lack of loyalty.

		uniforms, etc.) British: so why not turncoat and makes some money ?(Diamond). Hickey is jailed for counterfeiting, but brags to a spy in jail about his role in the plot to kill (Meehan).		
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2. What is a Synthesis Essay: Watch this 10-minute YouTube to get a general idea of what the AP Language and Composition Synthesis Essay is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz5Map72hZY>

3. Juxtaposition*: While both Ernesto Quiñonez and John Steinbeck juxtapose ideas, they do so with different effect. (approximately one hour)

- Find an example of juxtaposition in each book: *Bodega Dreams* and *Of Mice and Men* and compare/contrast the effect that each author creates using the same literary device.
- The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate that even though authors choose to employ the same device, the device can have quite a different effect.
- You are not required to write an essay, rather just a paragraph or two of analysis.
- This is not group-work, so complete it on your own.
- Do not use AI or the internet.
- This is discovery, and, as such, your voice should be prominent.
- Submission: A TurnItIn drop-box will be available in the Fall.
- Due Date: September 14, 2026.

*Students new to Bergen Catholic should reach out to eholt@bergencatholic.org **before** completing #3. Subject line should read: AP Lang Transfer Student

4. First Book: The first book we will read is William Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. We will read this together in the fall.

- You **are** required to have this specific version of the book (pdfs, e-books, other versions are **not** acceptable) for the first day of class: *Titus Andronicus* – William Shakespeare ISBN-101982156899 Shakespeare Folger Library
- Due Date: September 14, 2026.