

## Summer Assignment – 2023-24

In AP Language & Composition, we'll write nearly every day in class. On the first day of class, you'll write an essay in response to the ideas that you'll work through during this summer assignment. The better your notes and your free-writes here, the easier to write that essay will be.

To do this, **you will need a notebook or a journal that you use specifically for this class.** I will collect it periodically, so it's important that this be a notebook that you don't use for Gov notes or Geometry.



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(if they sing at all)

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without soul or expression?

Read, watch, and listen to the following texts. **Annotate the articles and take notes in your journal** about what you see and listen to. Then, write in response to all of the prompts below.

Read

[“We Are Opening the Lid on Two Giant Pandora’s Boxes”](#) – Thomas Friedman

[“Menace of Mechanical Music”](#) – John Philip Sousa

[“This is What You’ll Pay For: The Menace of Generative Music”](#) – Jamie Brooks

Watch

[“Why AI Will Be the Greatest Thing Ever to Happen to Music”](#)

[“The AI Effect: A New Era in Music and Its Unintended Consequences”](#)

Listen

[Generative.fm](#) (just play around with it for a while)

[The Anthology of American Folk Music](#) (it's fine to skip around)

## Journal Prompts

Plan on writing in your Lang journal for at least 15 minutes, or about a page. Write legibly, but quickly. Keep the pen moving the whole time. Date your responses. Cite the text when appropriate.

- How will what emerges from the Pandora's boxes Friedman notes combine? In other words, how might these twin problems become one problem?
- Sousa writes, "Children are naturally imitative, and if, in their infancy, they hear only phonographs, will they not sing, if they sing at all, in imitation and finally become simply human phonographs -- without soul or expression?" Answer his question.
- Summarize Brooks's perspective on generative music and how it will continue to devalue music on streaming services.
- Evaluate the YouTuber's argument in "Why AI Will Be the Greatest Thing Ever to Happen to Music." What are its strengths and weaknesses as an argument? Do you agree with his conclusions?
- What are the unintended consequences of "The AI Effect," according to Rick Beato? Do these consequences seem realistic to you?
- Generally, how do you feel about listening to AI-generated music? Can you imagine preferring the AI-version of an artist like Drake or Nirvana to the actual artist?
- Choose 4 or 5 songs from the Anthology: What themes do you notice in the music? Compare and contrast these themes with the music on the AI generator.
- If all you had was this collection of music, what conclusions might you come to about the culture that generated the American Folk Music Anthology? What about the culture that generated the AI ambient music?

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