

AP Macroeconomics, AP US Government Summer Reading Assignment

All AP Macro/Gov students will read the following books, and need to annotate it to earn credit for the assignment. Below is how the book should be annotated. Both are available used and pretty inexpensive. I have several copies of *Hardball* if you'd like to borrow one.

- *Naked Economics*. Charles Wheelan.
- *Hardball*. Chris Matthews.

Due Dates:

- *Naked Economics*-August 15 in class.
- *Hardball*-January 3 in class. You may complete the reading over the summer, or over the course of the fall, or even Christmas Break. As long as it is read by the start of second semester.

Annotating a Text

From *How to Read a Book* (Mortimer Adler & Charles Van Doren)

If you have the habit of asking a book questions as you read, you are a better reader than if you do not. But . . . merely asking questions is not enough. You have to try to answer them. And although that could be done, theoretically, in your mind only, it is easier to do it with a pencil in your hand. The pencil then becomes the sign of your alertness while you read.

****When you buy a book, you establish a property right in it, just as you do in clothes or furniture when you buy and pay for them. But the act of purchase is actually only the prelude to possession in the case of a book. Full ownership of a book only comes when you have made it a part of yourself, and the best way to make yourself a part of it -- which comes to the same thing -- is by writing in it. Why is marking a book indispensable to reading it.*

- First, it keeps you awake -- not merely conscious, but wide awake.
- Second, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The person who says he knows what he thinks but cannot express it does not know what he thinks.
- Third, writing your reactions down helps you to remember the thoughts of the author.

Note: Summer reading assignments should be read *and* annotated before you return to class for the fall session.

Note: If you find annotating while you read to be annoying and awkward, do it after you read. Go back after a chapter or assignment and then mark it carefully. You should be reading assignments twice anyway, so this isn't any less efficient than marking as you read and then rereading the material.

For the sake of standardization of annotating for class and for grading purposes, your book notes should follow this format:

Inside Front Cover: Topic list with small space for topic summary and for page references for key scenes, moments of development, etc. You may paper-clip notes inside the cover or you may use a journal approach.

Inside Back Cover: Themes, allusions, images, motifs, key points, etc. List and add page references and/or notes as you read. Again, paper-clip or use a journal.

Bottom and Side Page Margins: Interpretive notes, questions, and/or remarks that refer to meaning of the page. (Post-it notes) Markings or notes to tie in with information on the inside back cover.

Top Margins: thesis notes – a quick few words or phrases which summarize what happens here (useful for quick location of passages in discussion and for writing assignments).

Additional Markings:

underlining: done while or after reading to help locate passages for discussion, essays, or questions. (erasable pen, pencil, or erasable highlighter)

brackets: done while or after reading to highlight key speeches, descriptions, etc. that are too long to underline easily. Same as above.

In addition to the annotations: On a separate sheet, type a response to each book. Be honest in giving your thoughts on the book, how you liked or disliked it, it's usefulness, what you got out of reading it, etc. At least one paragraph, but this is an AP class so your writing should reflect the level of the class. Again, I'm looking for your personal thoughts and reaction to the book.

Marking and Note taking tips (optional):

- At chapter or section ends, stop to index page numbers on your front cover list of topic information and traits as well as on your back cover list of themes, images, allusions, etc.
- Do underlining as you read and side margin notes as you finish a page or two.

Grading:

Since everyone's notes will be similar in format yet somewhat different in content (there is obviously no one correct phrase to have at the top of a page of a book you are all reading), **book grades** will be based on thoroughness, clarity, neatness, and effort.