



Westhill High School  
Summer Reading 2015:  
AP Language and Composition (11)

## The Assignments

AP Language and Composition students must complete these assignments *in addition to the school-wide* assignment for *The Other Wes Moore*.

If you do not want to purchase a physical copy of the book, Stephen King's *On Writing* can be easily accessed online as a free PDF.

The two assignments below are also due September 4, 2015. They must be typed (double-spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font). Hard copies must be turned in during class; electronic copies will be submitted to turnitin.com by 11:59 pm the same day.

The essay will be evaluated initially as a draft and you will have an opportunity to revise it before it is graded.

### *The Other Wes Moore*

In the introduction to his memoir, Wes Moore reflects, “the chilling truth is that [Wes’s] story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his” (xi). Think about the validity of this statement. To what extent is Moore’s observation true? What factors, ultimately, prevented their stories from being interchangeable?

Write a 3-4 page essay in which you examine the extent to which Moore’s statement is true. Be sure to support your ideas with strong and thorough evidence from the text. Use MLA format, including a work cited page.

### *On Writing*

Although Stephen King’s memoir *On Writing* gives advice to the prospective writer of fiction, many of the lessons it teaches can be applied to writing for school (academic writing). Be on the alert for such lessons in order to respond to the following questions. Support your ideas with strong and thorough evidence from the text. Each response should be 1-2 paragraphs in length.

1. In the first section, titled “C.V.” or Curriculum Vitae, which means “life curriculum” or resume, King discusses the relationship between personal experience and writing. What argument about that relationship does King make? How has that relationship expressed itself in his life? How can his argument apply to academic writing?
2. Identify five writing tips that you take away from the second section, titled “toolbox.” In what way is each tip useful?

3. In section three, titled "On Writing," King makes the following claim: "If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot" (145). What are his reasons for making this claim?
4. King uses the following metaphor to describe the writing process: "Write with the door closed, rewrite with the door open" (209). Explain the metaphor as well as how it applies to King's own writing life and to writing in general.
5. Think about your own formative experiences in academic writing. What types of writing have been required in school (any/all subjects) up to this point? What types of writing do you do best? What do you feel are your strengths as an academic writer? Where do you feel you need to improve?