

4 AUGUST 2008
AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION 11
MR. BELASCO
ASSIGNMENT 1
SUMMER READING ESSAY

Please choose one of the following essay questions and answer completely as possible. When possible, I would like to see you make direct reference to the essay through quotations. Remember, you are to establish a solid and coherent thesis in the opening that directs the remainder of the paper. Furthermore, this is your first chance to show me who you are as a writer. Do not summarize. I read *The Eloquent Essay* again this summer for the third time so I am fairly aware of the content.

- Martin Luther King Jr. and Edward Abbey were both men of passion and principle, but they had radically different approaches to language and the audiences they were addressing. Write about these differences. What elements of Abbey's style in "The Cowboy and His Cow" would King have rejected? Why would he have rejected them? How might Abbey have addressed the religious leader who criticized the tactics of the Birmingham protest?
- Apply some of Carl Sagan's terms in "The Fine Art of Baloney Detection" to an examination of King's letter. Does King ever engage in "ad hominen" arguments? At any point, does he practice "special pleading," "begging the question," or "observational selection"? Does he set up a "straw man" in his argument?
- • Why does Marx begin with a history of the issue and a description of the gulf that separates the two sides? Does that kind of beginning predispose the reader to think favorably of the author before learning the author's views? How, for instance, would Edward Abbey have started an essay on the same topic? What are the advantages of waiting until the end of an essay, as Marx does, to offer a "side", or "solution," to the argument?

Due Date: 28 August 2008

Methods of delivery:

1. Drop off in my school mailbox before 3:00 pm
2. Email to me :

Belasco@alumni.rutgers.edu –or– belascotj@lcmrschools.com

If you Email please make the subject line of the Email Summer assignment. In addition, if possible, I Would prefer to