

AP Language and Composition – Summer Reading Assignment

Read:

[*The Uprising: On Poetry and Finance*](#) by Franco “Bifo” Berardi

[*Leaves of Grass*](#) by Walt Whitman (**just Whitman’s preface to the 1855 first edition**)

Watch:

Franco “Bifo” Berardi – Public Lecture, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcBryd29vP4>

Listen:

Franco Berardi Bifo on Uprising, Poetry, and Finance,
<https://archive.org/details/FrancoBerardiBifoOnUprisingPoetryAndFinance>

Annotate:

As you read Berardi and Whitman, make note of unfamiliar terms and LOOK THEM UP if they don’t already define them in-text. **Develop a list of 15-20 vocabulary words**, including 1) the word, 2) part of speech, 3) definition, 4) a sentence in the text where the word is found, and 5) the page number where the sentence appears). Even if the word is familiar to you, you might benefit from looking it up and getting an accurate and specific definition.

Research:

Gather some information (news articles, opinion-editorials, essays, statistics, etc.) about the political, social, and cultural happenings of the last decade and the movements that have risen out of them. **Then develop an annotated bibliography of AT LEAST FIVE citations using MLA Formatting Style.** Below each citation, **write 3-5 bullet points summarizing the relevant information** contained in a given source. Reference [OWL Purdue’s MLA Formatting and Style Guide](#). DON’T USE EASYBIB!

Write:

Pick one or more of the many claims Berardi makes in *The Uprising* and examine how they apply to the American experience. In crafting your response, address the current state(s) of American political, social, and/or cultural life. Ask yourself the questions: What is the state of our democracy? What is the state of the “American Dream”? Provide evidence to support your claims from BOTH your annotated bibliography as well as your summer reading **using MLA Style in-text and “Works Cited” page citations. Respond in 3-5 pages.**

DUE THE FIRST MONDAY OF YOUR RETURN TO SCHOOL