

12 AP Summer Reading Assignment

I Read Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. The graphic essays will help to explain the nature of the relationship between thoughts, words, and pictures. How we communicate given the way our minds work is at the core of the course. To truly understand the concepts in this book, it is recommended, but not required, that you experiment with some graphic story telling. Comics are fine; graphic novels are better.

II Read select essays from Ayn Rand's *Philosophy: Who Needs It?*. Essays include:

- "Introduction" by Leonard Piekoff
- "Philosophy: Who Needs it?"
- "Philosophical Detection"
- "The Missing Link"
- "Selfishness Without a Self"
- "Faith and Force: The Destroyers of the Modern World"
- "Causality Versus Duty"
- "Censorship: Local and Express"
- "What Can One Do?"
- "Don't Let It Go"

During the reading, write a response to each essay. Consider your own developing philosophy, experience, and opinion with regard to:

- philosophy in general
 - thinking and reason
 - the self and the society
 - one's ability to find answers in a vast and complicated universe
 - the definitions of freedom and responsibility and their role in daily life
 - planning versus spontaneity
- etc.