This summer, you will focus your reading and thinking on an informational text. *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr is a non-fiction text that synthesizes information from varied fields of research to make a layered argument about the relationship existing between technology and human thought.

**In A.P. Language and Composition, students analyze all writing through the lens of argument.**

1. As you read this text, identify Carr’s thesis, i.e., his central argument or message.
2. After noting Carr’s thesis, analyze how he supports this message with reasoning and examples in *each chapter*. Do not confuse reasons or examples with the central argument.

**In A.P. Language and Composition, students analyze how the writer’s choices create meaning and accomplish purpose.**

1. Identify two examples in *each chapter* in which Carr’s stylistic choices enhance his message. In other words, consider how what he does (his writing style) supports what he says (his content).
2. Organize your notes by chapter. *Do not annotate on post-it-notes*. Instead, record handwritten or typed notes.

**In A.P. Language and Composition, students read actively.** As such, it is expected that any unfamiliar language or references will be researched as you read. This practice is the hallmark of an advanced reader.

When you return at the start of the school year with a hard copy of your notes, you will be asked to:

1) Respond to an on-demand writing prompt that focuses on the text. You will not be given the prompt ahead of time, and you must complete it in class. This response will be used to assess your current level of thinking and writing.

2) Participate in a formal discussion of the text.

3) Explain one of the noted examples in which it is clear that Carr’s style (writing choices) helps to convey his central message.

4) Be ready to engage with the claims asserted by Carr by agreeing with, disagreeing with, or qualifying his assertions.