

9/10 Honors English Summer Assignment -- 2014-2015

Read any one of the nonfiction texts at the bottom of this document. Write a five paragraph essay on any one of the three prompts which follow. Be sure that your essay is in standard MLA format:

(1" margins all around)

your name
teacher's name
Honors English
date

your last name & p. #

Summer Assignment: _____ (title of text),
prompt # ____

Analytical Essay prompts:

1. Identify a central argument made by the author. What reasons and evidence does the author provide to support his/her position? Does the author identify and address any counterclaims? If so, what are they and how does the author refute them? Use direct quotes from the text and thorough analysis to support your statements.
 2. What is the central idea in this text? Identify and analyze how the author develops that central idea over the course of the text using direct quotes to support your thorough analysis.
 3. The strength of many narratives depends upon the author's skill in telling a story well. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the author's style in this book. What narrative techniques does the author use to tell this story? Use direct quotes from the text and thorough analysis to support your statements.
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Writing Points:

Introduction Paragraph: Begin your essay with a four to six sentence introduction paragraph. Establish the context of the story (including author, title, and setting) and include a clear thesis statement that tells the reader the focus of your paper.

Body Paragraphs: Identify three different moments or examples from the book that demonstrate the topic. Each body paragraph should focus on analyzing one of these three moments (discuss one moment or example per body paragraph).

- Each body paragraph must include a **minimum of two quotes** from the book that help support your assertion about the book. Include the page number for each quote. Your quotes should reflect the entire book; do not choose quotes from only one section.
- Within your body paragraphs you should focus on analyzing each quote and explaining how it demonstrates the topic you are discussing. Some questions you can ask yourself as you write your body paragraphs are: What is the quote saying? What is the significance of the quote in terms of the larger context of the book? How does this pertain to the point I am making about the central argument, central idea, or narrative style? *Do not simply retell the story or summarize the plot of the book. Focus on analyzing and explaining your point of view.*
- Each body paragraph should be developed in eight to twelve sentences.

Conclusion Paragraph: Finish your essay with a three to five sentence conclusion that summarizes your main points and provides a clear wrap up to your discussion.

Important Ideas to Remember:

- Avoid using the first person (“I” and “me”) in your paper.
 - Do not use the phrases “I think” or “I believe.”
 - Do not use the second person (“you” or “your”).
 - Do not address the reader directly (“Have you ever wondered? etc...”).
 - Do not end your paper with, “In conclusion...”).
 - This paper should demonstrate your ability to analyze literature and your ability to write fluently.
 - Your paper should be free of spelling and grammar errors. Proofread your paper.
 - **This essay is due the first day of class. Late essays will not be accepted!**
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Book List

- *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- *Down the Great Unknown: John Wesley Powell’s 1869 Journey of Discovery and Tragedy Through the Grand Canyon* by Edward Dolnick
- *Into Thin Air* by John Krakauer
- *The Ecology of Commerce* by Paul Hawken
- *Our Choice* by Al Gore (iPad app - not available as printed text)
- *Mosque or Cathedral* by David MacCauley
- *Sugar Changed the World* by Marc Aronson & Marina Budhos
- *Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowatt
- *Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage* by Edward Lansing
- *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan

- *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond
- *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, Linda Lear
- *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values* by Robert M. Pirsig
- *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* by William L. Shirer
- *The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher* by Lewis Thomas
- *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution* by Diane McWhorter