



**New Dorp High School
The Academy of Education and Leadership
10th, 11th, & 12th Grade Independent Summer Assignment**

“If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of.”

- Fred Rogers

For over thirty years, Fred Rogers, an unassuming minister, puppeteer, writer, and producer was beamed daily into homes across America. In his beloved television program, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” Fred and his cast of puppets and friends spoke directly to young children about some of life’s weightiest issues in a simple, direct fashion. There hadn’t been anything like Mr. Rogers on television before and there hasn’t been since. Though he may be best known today as a soft-spoken, cardigan-wearing children’s television host, in reality, Fred Rogers’ career represents a sustained attempt to present a coherent, beneficent view about how we should best speak to children about important matters and how television could be used as a positive force in our society. In “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville looks back on the legacy of Fred Rogers, focusing on his radically kind ideas. While the nation changed around him, Fred Rogers stood firm in his beliefs about the importance of protecting childhood. Neville pays tribute to this legacy with the latest in his series of highly engaging, moving documentary portraits of essential American artists.

Step 1: You will need:

- View the film “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”
- Miscellaneous writing supplies such as a pen and paper

Step 2: *Please answer each the following questions in full and complete sentences providing details and/or examples from the film or from your personal experience:*

1. What were you most surprised to learn from the film?
2. Which stories in the film stood out to you the most? Why?
3. a) How did Mister Rogers and the show engage with social issues?
b) Which current issues can we approach with a similar discipline of respectfulness and thoughtfulness?
4. Describe one of Mister Rogers’ core values, and describe how your own life speaks to that.
5. Have you ever encountered a neighbor in need? If yes, how were you able to help them?

This independent assignment must be completed by **September 13, 2019**. The assignment will be collected by your elective teacher on that date and the assignment will count toward your first marking period grade.

Handwritten responses to the questions are acceptable. If you choose to type your responses, then please adhere to the following typing requirements:

Font Size: 12

Font: Arial or Times New Roman

Spacing: Double

Margins: 1 inch on all sides