

English 12 Honors -- Summer Reading
Mrs. Pinder

I am thrilled to share this year's summer reading assignment with you. Summer is a time to reflect, rejuvenate and revive your path in life. I have chosen two very different, but essential memoirs. The first author has not only published multiple books, but he is also well renowned CNN reporter and T.V. personality. The second read is the poignant memoir by Elie Wiesel and his reflection on multiple concentration camps with his father.

Evaluation:

You will be tested on the memoirs - 50%

You will be submitting a final paper-50%

You will also be submitting your notes on both memoirs for a grade!

The due dates are listed below:

-Notes to be collected and checked-September 6th

-Summer Reading Test: September 12th and 13th (on both memoirs)

-Literary Analysis Paper:

Outline, September 6^h

Rough Draft, 17th

*****Final draft, September 24th**

Note: All writing should be typed, double-spaced, following MLA guidelines for manuscript and documentation. Your content and organization should reflect critical insight, care, and creativity. *****No late work will be accepted. If you do not complete the summer reading assignment, you will be removed from the course.**

Do your best work!

Part I: Preparation in Analyzing Literature

Read the following excerpts: **“Introduction-Where Writers learn their best moves”** and **“X-raying Gatsby”** from the title below. You are expected to **take notes** as this will be a portion of the exam in the beginning of the year. These excerpts will help you better understand how to analyze literature.

Please read the following:

Excerpts of *The Art of X-Ray Reading* by Roy Peter Clark (We will be using this book throughout the semester)

Use the following link to access the excerpts for free:

<http://openbook.hbgusa.com/openbook/9780316282161>

Part II: Read the following two memoirs, take notes on each, but then create an Annotated Outline for one of the memoirs (this outline will be used to construct your first paper: (Read both- then create an annotated outline for one of them)

- 1- *Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters, and Survival* by Anderson Cooper
- 2- *Night* by Elie Wiesel

While reading, take diligent notes of **both texts** –*take a ton of notes and carefully read the texts as they will appear on your first exam.* Memoirs “should” be a reflection about real life and students learn best when they are engaged in material that relates to their life or others, and has a significant impact on the world around them.

The expectation of this assignment is that you:

- will develop an argumentative analysis on a specific topic integral to the reading of either *Dispatches from the Edge* or *Night*. You must have a clear focus to your argument as well as a coherent structure that aids in the development of your ideas.
- Your notes from *Night* and *Dispatches*, will be checked and then used during our first unit.

Requirements for Your Annotated Outline (*Dispatches From the Edge* or *Night*): (this is what is due on September 6th):

- An **introduction** that develops what you plan to argue. The introduction should end in a thesis statement that has clearly synthesized your argument. All of these items should be directed to the text and specific.
- **Structured paragraphs** that begin with a topic sentence that argues your thesis. Topic Sentences state the main argument of each paragraph. Each topic sentence should be an argument that proves your thesis.
- **Textual Support**, properly cited, that works to prove your topic sentence.
- **Significant Analysis** and questions that you want to address within each paragraph (not summary) of your quotes.
- **Proper MLA** citation format (**Use OWL at Perdue online for guidance**)

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/developing_an_outline/documents/20081113013048_544.pdf

-**Proper MLA Formatting:** 1” Margins, MLA Heading, last name/pg #s, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, Double-Spaced (Use the Google Docs MLA Template)

*****Use OWL at Perdue for guidance on MLA or Outlines**

Avoid the Following in your Annotated Outline:

- **Hooks** – Your hook should be ideas directly related to your argument and pull the reader into your analysis. It is always smart to mention the text, author, and main focus of your argument within the first sentence.
- **Personal Pronouns** – You are creating scholarly writing that requires critical distance. You weaken your argument by suggesting it is your opinion or that you “feel” a certain way about the text.
- **Thesis Statement with 3 parts** – Your assignment when completed in its final form during the semester is 5-7 pages. It is not 5 paragraphs. Your thesis statement should be just that – a statement that is argumentative.
- **Plagiarism** – The work must be yours. Any possible hint of relation to Sparknotes, Shmoop, Enotes, etc. will result in immediate expulsion from this course with no exceptions. You have NO reason to use anyone else’s thoughts on this assignment because it is your analysis.
- **Drop Quotes** – Remember, all quotes MUST be within the grammatical structure of a sentence. This means your words are required to be in the sentence with the quotes. Also, please make a habit of referring to your quotes in analysis. The text is where we gain our insight so we must use it in our argumentative analysis.
- **Generalizations** – These could be grand statements you cannot prove or definitions of words. Please stick to the text and only argue what you can prove.



Assignment Checklist:

_____ - Read the excerpts of *The Art of X-Ray Reading* by Roy Peter Clark . Take notes while you read. You will be tested on this information at the beginning of the semester.

_____ - Read your **2** memoirs. **Take copious notes on both.** However, be sure to have detailed notes to aid you in creating your annotated outline and analysis of *Dispatches from the Edge or Night*.

_____ - Complete a 3-5 page annotated outline (typed) of your intended analysis of *Dispatches from the Edge or Night*. Develop a topic based off your interest in the text. Consider the aspects of the memoir- the writer's **thoughts** and **feelings, reactions** and **reflections** that are revealed. You topic does not have to be anything that I’ve listed below. Please make sure that you develop an outline for an argumentative analysis. This paper requires you to cite textual information from the text itself and does not ask or desire outside citations; however, you can. Your job is to argue through a close reading of the memoir and quotes that you pull from the text. This is how your thesis can be proven. This is much different than highlighting and explaining.

The Outline is due: September 6th, 2019.

Suggested Paper Topics – (Remember you are only constructing an annotated outline for one of the memoirs) You may choose!

If you struggle with coming up with a topic, consider one of the following: (these are mere suggestions-feel free to propose your own)

- (1) Compare/Contrast between the memoir and any interviews, or media about the text.

You may view the various shows of **Anderson Cooper**:

Anderson Cooper 360° -CNN

CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute

Planet in Peril documentary

Syndicated talk show, *Anderson Live*- CNN

United States Presidential debates – 2016

Guest Host on *Live with Kelly* –ABC

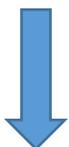
60 Minutes- CBS

Nothing Left Unsaid features Gloria Vanderbilt and her youngest son, Anderson Cooper, in a series of candid conversations – HBO documentary

- (2) An analysis of why this memoir was written, published and then received accolades.
- (3) A close reading of a passage or chapter (a crucial turning point in the author's life).
- (4) Question the reliability of the author's memory of their past. What tools did they use to create the memoir? Did they rely on stories told by other's or did they reflect accurately on their past?
- (5) Analyze the relationship between Eliezer and his father throughout the story. How was this crucial for survival?
- (6) Parallel *Night* with another memoir or testimony from the Holocaust. How did the author's personal voice contribute to the testimony of this horrific event?

Be sure to follow proper MLA format! Use the Google Docs MLA template.

Good luck on this assignment! Don't just work hard, but find a topic that you enjoy. I look forward to having a dynamic semester with you this fall!



Make sure to read the next page!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pinder

Please feel free to contact me during the summer if you have questions or concerns at:
mpinder@bordentown.k12.nj.us (I will be **periodically** checking my email)

*****You were given 2 packets: yellow (English Glossary of Literary Terms) and blue (English Language and Composition Terms). Please begin reviewing these terms, so that you are able to apply them to your work and class discussion. These packets will be used throughout the semester.**

*****No late work will be accepted. If you do not complete the summer reading assignment, you will be removed from the course.**