



Summer Reading for 2015-2016

12th Grade

Summer Reading/Writing Assignment

Reading proficiency and comprehension is a major element of what we are trying to accomplish in both the Literature and Humanities classes. We want to encourage our students to be lifelong readers and learners. The literature assigned during the school year has to compete with a rigorous academic and extracurricular schedule. Therefore, summer is the perfect time to enjoy a fine example of literature or history in a friendly, familiar, and family filled environment.

To advance this goal, we have chosen books which reflect our desire to have students value and appreciate their summer reading experience. We encourage parents or guardians to be actively involved in this reading process.

Use the three questions below as a template for writing your response. You should anticipate writing 1-2 paragraphs for each question. In keeping with the more personal and informal nature of summer reading. Your responses will be due at the beginning of your fifth meeting in class. Since the purpose of the response paper is to help you during class discussion of the text, reference the text often in your responses. Use standard MLA formatting for textual references.

Honors Government Required – *A Defense of Liberty against Tyrants: Of the Lawful Power of the Prince over the People, and of the People over the Prince* by Junius Brutus (1689) (Found in pdf version at <http://archive.org/details/vindiciaecontrat00lang>)

Regular and Honors Economics – *The Road to Serfdom (Condensed Version)* by F. A. Hayek (Found in pdf version at <http://www.alexsingleton.com/hayek-the-road-to-serfdom-pdf/>)

Regular English Required - *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Note: Do not use Cliff Notes, Sparknotes, movies, or any other substitute/aid materials. SMA's desire is for each student to enjoy these works and appreciate their role in history.

- 1: What is the main idea or theme of the book? Choose one brief passage that seems to exemplify this idea and provide a few key details.
- 2: What did you learn from this book?
- 3: As you read the book, how did it change a view, idea, or understanding you previously held? Describe how it revealed something new to you (whether it be about the period covered in the book or yourself).

12th Honors Senior English with Thesis

Summer Reading/Writing Assignment

This summer, upcoming seniors who enroll into the honors course will read two books for their summer reading/writing assignments. The first book – Anthony Weston's text, *A Rulebook for Arguments* – clearly and concisely outlines the principles of argumentation students will need to be familiar with before matriculating into the course. Each senior will also choose a second book that addresses the subject of his or her conditionally approved thesis topic. The steps for selecting the thesis book and the details of the thesis summer reading assignment are as follows:

Steps for Selecting Theses Summer Reading Books:

First Thesis Book:

- Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. 4th ed. Hackett, 2008.
- Available through Amazon via the following link: <http://www.amazon.com/Rulebook-Arguments-Anthony-Weston/dp/0872209547>
- Note: Students should purchase this book (approximately \$8.00 soft cover) since it will be referenced throughout the thesis project, and is a helpful resource for writing senior-level history and literature themes, college application essays, etc.

Second Thesis Book Criteria:

- Students will also select a second thesis book – a primer on (or scholarly introduction to) the main themes/subjects of his or her thesis.
- The primer should be 200+ pages, published by a scholarly publishing company (e.g., X University Press), broad/comprehensive enough to expose students to various aspects of their thesis topics.

Thesis Summer Writing Assignment: After reading both thesis summer reading texts (*A Rulebook for Arguments*; an approved thesis topic book), students should rewrite their first draft with the *Rulebook for Arguments*' points in mind that adheres to the following standards:

Paper should use MLA citation and formatting standards, including

- Header (student's name; instructor's name; course name; date),
- Pagination (last name and page number in top-right corner),
- In-text parenthetical citations for all references,
- Works Cited page

Additionally, the essay should:

- Clearly and concisely summarize the main points of the approved thesis book;
- Link Weston's suggestions for constructing clear, concise, and persuasive arguments to an original critique of the content and style of the approved thesis text.