

# 2024 BARD EARLY COLLEGE, ORANGE H.S.

## SUMMER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

### WRITING AND THINKING EXERCISES

1. Read and annotate both very short texts from Friedrich Nietzsche and Lao Tzu.
2. Get a notebook that you will use for **Bard Seminar Sequence**. Complete all 4 prompts in the notebook. Each prompt should be about a page of writing.
3. Don't worry about being "right" in your answers. Just write what comes to mind after you read the texts and prompts.
4. Bring your completed written responses to the first day of class on September 6, 2024; however, you are encouraged to finish the work during the orientation June 24-25th.
5. Reach out to Professor Worthington at [worthian@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:worthian@orange.k12.nj.us) if you have any

issues. Altogether, the following exercises should take no more than an hour or two.

*Friedrich Nietzsche was a German philologist, philosopher, and writer in the late 1800s. The excerpt below is taken from a book of thought experiments he wrote.*

### **Section 341 of *The Happy Science* by Friedrich Nietzsche**

*The Heaviest Burden.* What if a demon crept after you into your loneliest loneliness some day or night, and said to you: "This life, as you live it at present, and have lived it, you must live it once more, and also innumerable times; and there will be nothing new in it, but every pain and every joy and every thought and every sigh, and all the unspeakably small and great in thy life must come to you again, and all in the same series and sequence - and similarly this spider and this moonlight among the trees, and similarly this moment, and I myself. The eternal sand-glass of existence will ever be turned once more, and you with it, you speck of dust!" - Would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth, and curse the demon that so spoke? Or have you once experienced a tremendous moment in which you would answer him: "You are a God, and never did I hear anything so divine!" If that thought acquired power over you as you are, it would transform you, and perhaps crush you; the question with regard to all and everything: "Do you want this once more, and also for innumerable times?" would lie as the heaviest burden upon your activity! Or, how would you have to become favourably inclined to yourself and to life, so as to long for nothing more ardently than for this last eternal sanctioning and sealing?

Instructions: Write and number your responses to the following questions in a notebook.

1. Interpret Nietzsche's thought experiment. What message do you think he is sending? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Explain your thinking in one page with examples and reasons.
2. Text Explosion: Choose ONE word, phrase, or sentence from Nietzsche's thought experiment. Write that word/phrase/sentence at the top of a piece of paper. Free write on that phrase for at least one full page of notebook paper. Feel free to make text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world connections.

*Lao Tzu was a Chinese philosopher, poet, and theologian in the 500s BC who founded Taoism. This excerpt is taken from his book of 81 chapters called the Tao Te Ching.*

## **Hushing**

Not praising the praiseworthy  
keeps people uncompetitive.  
Not prizing rare treasures  
keeps people from stealing.  
Not looking at the desirable  
keeps the mind quiet.  
So the wise soul governing people  
would empty their minds,  
fill their bellies,  
weaken their wishes,  
strengthen their bones,  
keep people unknowing, unwanting,  
keep the ones who do know from doing anything.  
When you do not-doing,  
nothing's out of order.

Instructions: Write and number your responses to the following questions in a notebook.

3. Interpret Tzu's writing. What message do you think he is sending? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Explain your thinking in one page with examples and reasons.
4. Text Explosion: Choose ONE line from Tzu's writing. Write that phrase at the top of a piece of paper. Free write on that phrase for at least one full page of notebook paper. Feel free to make text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world connections.