

Contemporary Literature and Composition

Post Graduate Essay & Summer Reading Assignments

Congratulations students! You made it to your senior year.

There are two summer requirements for Contemporary Literature and Composition:

- Complete Senior Essay Brainstorm Questions
- Read Choice Book

The information that follows will guide you as you complete these tasks.

Senior Essay

This essay is an opportunity for you to reflect on the lessons you have learned in life that will allow you to be successful in the future whether you decide to go to college, start a career, enter the military, or whatever path you decide to take.

Note: You are receiving this assignment during the summer break. We do not expect you to return with a fully written response, but we REQUIRE a well-thought-out brainstorm for you to submit upon your return. Please see the attached worksheet. In addition, for those students who would want to do both brainstorming and an essay, a rubric is attached in order to guide your efforts.

Prompts from the Common Application

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

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Senior Essay Brainstorm Questions

- 1. What would you like to do with your future and why? (If you are undecided, then describe your interests.)**
- 2. What/Who inspired your interests? (When you attempt to give this answer, provide as much detail as possible.)**
- 3. Is there an institution, place, or project where you would like to display your future plans? (For example, is there a program at a particular university you want to enter? Would you like to exercise your interest in the military or by starting my own business?)**

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Senior Essay Scoring Rubric

Criteria to be Assessed	4	3	2	1
1. Ideas	Writing successfully presents the topic in a novel or unique way. Writing includes excellent and specific concrete detail and insightful commentary.	Writing presents the topic in an interesting way. Writing includes good concrete detail and commentary.	Writing presents the topic in an ordinary way. Writing includes concrete detail, but commentary is obvious, simplistic, or generic.	Writing presents topic in an ordinary way. Concrete details and commentary are either weak or missing.
2. Organization	Writing has a compelling and logical flow of ideas. Full, unified paragraphs with well-developed introduction and conclusion	Writing has a logical flow of ideas. Full, unified paragraphs with adequate introduction and conclusion	Organization is workable, but sometimes gets off topic Inadequately developed paragraphs with perfunctory introduction and conclusion	Writing is undeveloped or disorganized. Random presentation or repetition of details
3. Topic Sentences and Transitions	Paragraphs have focused and poignant topic sentences and smooth, almost seamless transitions.	Paragraphs have focused topic sentences and obvious transitions.	Paragraphs have topic sentences that need to be more focused and rough transitions.	Paragraphs lack topic sentences and transitions.
4. Language	Writing consistently and effectively shows rather than tells through specific and vivid details. (Adjectives, similes, metaphors, etc.)	Writing shows rather than tells, but details could be more specific and vivid.	Writing includes some showing but needs more.	Writing uses all telling and no showing.
5. Voice	Writing reveals your unique personality and view of the world, leaving the reader to want to know more about who you are.	Writing reveals some of your thoughts and feelings, but needs more personality behind it.	Writing is bland. There is no hint of a real person behind the writing.	Writing is insincere, uninvolved, or distant.
6. Word Choice	Writing uses words that are striking and fresh but natural, varied, and vivid.	Appropriate vocabulary. Some variety in length and sentence structure.	Writing uses words that are flat. Simple sentences lacking variety in length and structure.	Writing uses words that may be confusing or inappropriate. Poor sentence structure.
7. Mechanics and Grammar	Writing has few errors (including verb tense, pronoun agreement, punctuation and spelling). 1-2 per page	Writing uses correct conventions, but some edits are necessary. 3-4 per page	Writing has several errors in the essay, causing reader distraction. 5-6 per page.	Writing has frequent mechanical errors that interfere with reading. More than 6 per page

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Total Score _____ **X 3.13** = _____ **/100**
Summer Reading

All Contemporary Literature and Composition students are expected to read a choice book or listen to an audiobook over the summer. To encourage students to develop a healthy reading life, we are asking them to read a young adult or adult book of their choice. The choice book should be at least 200 pages in length, and the student should be reading the title for the first time. Students may obtain these books from the WGHS library, any public library, or by using Sora through their Clever accounts.

Please see below for some suggestions:

Any Prinze award winner or nominee:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz-award>

Any of these FREE audio titles:

https://www.audiofilemagazine.com/sync/?utm_source=sync&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20210429-syncwk1&utm_content=regtxt

Anything from this list:

2023 Choice Reading List

- The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner
- Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay
- Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
- The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
- Dear Martin by Nic Stone
- Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett Krosoczka
- The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater
- Looking for Alaska by John Green
- Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- Whirligig by Paul Fleischman
- Shift by Jennifer Bradbury
- Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
- The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Students might be given an assessment during the first week of school in August 2023.