

English I Honors Summer Assignment

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1. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Annotate the novel using the guidelines provided at the bottom of this page.
2. Read *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. Annotate the novel using the guidelines provided at the bottom of this page.
3. Write a formal, 5 paragraph essay in which you compare and contrast the two novels.
Harper Lee only published two novels during her lifetime: *Go Set a Watchman* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. *Go Set a Watchman* was written before *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but the story takes place after the events of *To Kill a Mockingbird* have concluded. For this reason, there are many similarities and differences between the two, causing *Go Set a Watchman* to be both praised and criticized. Compare and contrast the two novels by discussing the differences in the portrayal of Atticus, the inconsistencies in the plots, and the different messages the works communicate.
4. Be prepared to turn in the annotated books and the essay on the day of Freshman Orientation.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at eyoung@covcath.org!

Annotation Guide:

1. Underline or highlight key words, phrases, or sentences that are important to understanding the work.
2. Write questions or comments in the margins—your “conversation” with the text. **Simply highlighting or underlining is not enough! You MUST write a comment in the margin for every item you highlight in the book.**
3. Bracket important ideas or passages.
4. Connect ideas with lines or arrows.
5. Use numbers in the margin: to indicate the sequence of points the author makes in developing a single argument.
6. Use a star, asterisk, or other doo-dad at the margin (use a consistent symbol): to be used sparingly, to emphasize the ten or twenty most important statements in the book.
7. Use ??? for sections or ideas you don’t understand.
8. Circle words you don’t know. Define them in the margins.
9. Use !!! when you come across something new, interesting, or surprising.

Other important annotation notes:

Avoid going more than four pages without making a meaningful annotation.

Avoid *only* marking questions and reactions. While these are easy annotations to make, they aren’t always useful/meaningful. Pick out information that is significant: characters, plot points, thematic ideas, etc.