



WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL
550 NORTH STREET
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10605
914-422-2182

Emerly Martinez
Principal

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Dear Syracuse University Project Advance Student:

Welcome to SUPA, a first-year college course in academic writing and textual studies that all Syracuse freshmen take as part of their baccalaureate studies at Syracuse University. You will find this college course enjoyable, challenging, and useful. SUPA will intellectually challenge you, requiring you to deeply explore and thoroughly interact with college-level subject matter. This college course will prepare you for the academic rigor you can look forward to in your near-future, and you will have the opportunity to earn 6 Syracuse University credits.

In preparation for this year, please view the docudrama:

***The Social Dilemma*, Written and Directed by Jeff Orlowski**

Available on Netflix and on SWANK via the WPHS Library/Media Center

Please also read:

***How Social Media Shapes our Identity* by Nausicaa Renner**

The film reflects on the relevant questions of our time: “We tweet, we like, and we share— but what are the consequences of our growing dependence on social media? This documentary-drama hybrid reveals how social media is reprogramming civilization with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations.” The *New Yorker* essay echoes the questions presented in the film and offers some research and data to ponder.

In preparation for the school year, please write a **1-2-page reflection** (400-500 words) in which you reflect on the quote “I post, therefore I am.” **This assignment is due the first week of school.**

Consider the following in your reflection:

- What does “I post, therefore I am” mean to you?
- How does social media play a role in your life as a student? As a citizen?
- What are the benefits to posting and sharing?
- What are the challenges social media presents?

Be prepared to discuss the film in class as we redefine *genre* and acknowledge that social media is currently a salient *genre*.

We look forward to a SUPA year together!

Sincerely,

Seren Cepler, Amy Estersohn & Nicole Reis
Syracuse University Adjunct Instructors