Task: Read and annotate selected short essays in
ISBN: 978-1319194468

Annotation Advice:

There are many ways to interact with a text. Everybody has a tendency when it comes to the type of annotations they tend to write – I ask a lot of questions, define words I don’t know, make personal connections, and comment on language that I find beautiful, challenging or confusing. Find a way to balance your annotation with your enjoyment of reading.

Guiding Questions:

You do not need to write responses to these questions. They are designed to help guide you as you read this summer.

1) Which essays have the strongest openings that draw you in as a reader?
2) Which essays have the strongest closings?
3) Which essays have the strongest writing voice?
4) What connections do you see between essays?
5) What essays impact you the most as a reader (positively and negatively)? What techniques do those writers use?
6) What can essays convey that other forms of writing cannot convey?

Very Important Information:

*50 Essays: A Portable Anthology 6th Edition* Samuel Cohen is available on Amazon and other online and in-store locations. You are responsible for purchasing the book on your own.

Please finish reading and annotating the required essays before the first day of school and bring your book to your first English class.


DO NOT get an electronic version or rent the book.

You should carefully read and annotate the essays that are listed below. You can, of course, read all of the essays but only the essays listed below are required.
These essays will serve as crucial foundations for key ideas in the course and also provide us an opportunity to begin the year with meaningful discussions from our shared observations about our summer reading.

- “Graduation” Maya Angelou
- “Notes of a Native Son” James Baldwin
- “The Burning Desire for Hot Chicken” Danny Chau
- “Only Daughter” Sandra Cisneros
- “Clearcut: Explaining the Distance” Eli Clare
- “The Paranoid Style of American Policing” Ta-Nehisi Coates
- “The Myth of the Latin Woman: I Just Met a Girl Named Maria” Judith Ortiz Cofer
- “Serving in Florida” Barbara Ehrenreich
- “On Dumpster Diving” Lars Eighner
- “The Ways We Lie” Stephanie Ericsson
- “Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted” Malcolm Gladwell
- “Going It Alone” Rahawa Haile
- “When Pink Ballet Slippers Won’t Do” Jenine Holmes
- “Salvation” Langston Hughes
- “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” Zora Neale Hurston
- “The Ugly Tourist” Jamaica Kincaid
- “The Fourth of July” Audre Lorde
- “The Ghosts in Our Machines” Matthew J.X. Malady
- “Two Ways to Belong in America” Bharati Mukherjee
- “Indian Heads” Tommy Orange
- “I Just Wanna Be Average” Mike Rose
- “Just Walk on By: Black Men and Public Space” Brent Staples
- “A Modest Proposal” Jonathan Swift
- “Civil Disobedience” Henry David Thoreau
- “The Refugee Crisis Isn’t About Refugees. It’s About Us.” Ai Weiwei
- “Slang in America” Walt Whitman
- “Professions for Women” Virginia Woolf
- “A Pet Tortoise Who Will Outlive Us All” Hanya Yanagihara