

Summer Reading Assignments for Seniors

Dear Seniors:

The summer before your final year of high school is a good time to ask what you need to achieve during your senior year so that you are prepared to succeed in college. Are you confident with your organizational skills? Reading comprehension? Writing skills? Research skills?

Let's start your senior year with two assignments to support your preparation. All students will complete a reading assignment and an argument journal on which they will be graded. Reading choices are listed below, and instructions for the argument journal are also found there.

Have a great summer, enjoy the reading, and show me your best work on the argument journal.

Dr. McGinnis

Assignment One

AP Students: Read 2 books, 1 from each group.

Choose one: *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

Choose one: *The Color of Water* by James McBride
Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam
Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls

English Language & Composition Students: Read 1 of these books.

Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

Assessment: In-class essay on your book choice during the first week of school (50 points)

Assignment Two

Purposes:

- To search for debatable topics which might work for your senior research project;
- To demonstrate your ability to follow directions, exercise good judgment, and work independently. You should not email me to ask for my approval for the editorials you choose or the cover you create;
- To show your ability to plan and to be prompt with assignments. Anticipate printer or computer problems, lost luggage, delayed flights, etc.; **but have the assignment to me on the first day of school.** If our class is not on your schedule for the first day, you still must drop it off in my room by 8:15 A.M.

If you are or will be late returning to school, email the journal and then bring a hard copy whenever you arrive. There should be no late journals. Late penalties will be assigned.

Tasks to complete the assignment:

- **Select** 4 editorials from 2024 from 4 different **national or international publications**. An editorial can be found on the opinion or editorial page of a magazine or newspaper and often has the words “opinion” or “editorial” near the title (see, for example: *Time*, *Harper’s*, *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *The Atlantic*, online transcripts of NPR or BBC editorials).
- **Annotate** each article. Number main ideas, circle and define unfamiliar words, ask questions.
- **Compose** a two-page typed, double-spaced response to **one** of the articles. In your own words state the author’s thesis, whether you agree or disagree with the author, and why.
- **Create** a cover page with an interesting **title** and **creative image** that reflects the topics of your editorials. Your visual image should preview the articles and reflect your opinion about the controversies of 2024. If you use technology to create images on your cover, be original rather than simply cutting and pasting images.
- **Use** MLA format for the heading and place it in the bottom right corner of the cover page.

Student name

Dr. McGinnis

(AP) English Language and Composition – Period __

Date

- **Add** a bibliography in MLA format for the 4 articles.
- **Collate** the journal in this order: title page, the 2-page response, the 4 annotated articles, and the bibliography. Staple in the upper left-hand corner. No binders or folders. Your work will be displayed in the classroom.