

# Summer Reading Interview & Proposal: 8th Grade ELA Honors

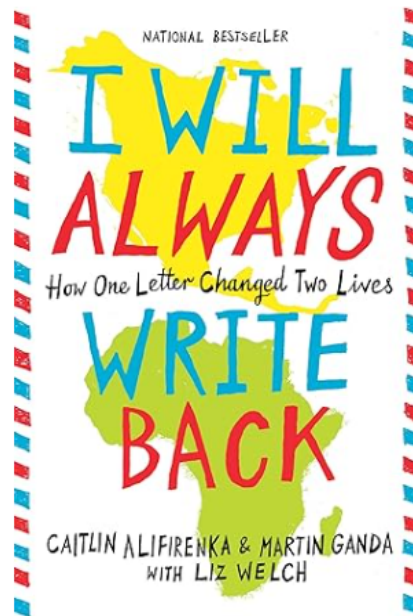
*This book will begin our first unit of the 2024-2025 school year.*

## Consider

This assignment will assess your ability to synthesize what you've read in a meaningful way. After reading the book, *I Will Always Write Back*, by Caitlin Alifirenka, Martin Ganda, and Liz Welch, consider how some of the themes explored in the book may relate to this part of the world and in particular, Fayetteville, NC. Even here there are people who experience the following challenges:

challenges:

- homelessness
- lack of access to health care
- food insecurity



*This is a true story!*

## Part 1: Choose a topic and conduct an interview.

Select one of these issues that you feel the strongest about and prepare a list of ten questions you might ask someone who has experience in any of these areas. Then contact someone who can speak about these challenges. They might have personal experience or they might have worked with others with personal experience. Interview your contact and record their responses in either an audio or a video file.

(This is so you can refer back to what they said. You will not submit the recording.)

Tip: If you have trouble finding someone to interview, try reaching out to a local nonprofit organization and speaking with a worker there.

## Part 2: Brainstorm Action Plans

Next, think creatively about something you or a group of students in your middle school could do to help. Brainstorm a list of action plans to either bring awareness to the situation or provide direct help to those in need. Focus specifically on your talents and interests. What type of project interests you most? What work might you find to be compelling and meaningful? Keep in mind, the expectation is not to actually complete the project, at least not now. This is the dreaming stage; what would you like to do? You will work with your classmates at the start of the new school year to select and propose a plan.

For ideas, check out [www.dosomething.org/us](http://www.dosomething.org/us).

## Part 3: Build a presentation.

Type up your interview questions and answers in a doc. Then assimilate your research (interview) and proposal into a slide presentation that introduces the issue you selected and the following features:

- a synthesis of the interview you conducted
- direct quotations from the person you interviewed
- your list of action plan suggestions
- academic vocabulary
- appropriately used grammar and punctuation

Your presentation should consist of 6-8 professional looking slides that contain meaningful information and not merely keywords and pictures.

You will present this slideshow to your class.





## Rubric

Category	Excellent	Good	Needs Revision
<b>Interview</b>	<p>The interview questions are relevant and meaningful.</p> <p>The interview subject is appropriately experienced in the issue selected.</p> <p>The interview indicates a thoughtful conversation full of insight and valuable information gained.</p>	<p>The interview questions are difficult to answer or not well-formed.</p> <p>The interview questions and responses stay at the surface level and do not reveal much about the deeper needs involved in the issue at hand.</p> <p>The interview appears to be choppy and/or disordered.</p>	<p>The interview subject was inappropriately chosen.</p> <p>The interview reveals very little about the person being interviewed or the issue selected.</p> <p>The interview is poorly written and difficult to understand.</p>
<b>Slide Show Required Elements</b>	<p>The required elements of the doc and slide show clearly and effectively represent a meaningful depiction of your interview and proposal. It contains a professional display and each element is clearly presented.</p> <p>There is a thoughtful synthesis of ideas with meaningful conclusions present.</p>	<p>The elements of the doc and slide show represent a meaningful depiction of your interview and proposal with clear, relevant structure, but the required quotations may be missing, or certain elements may be underdeveloped.</p>	<p>The doc and/or slide show is missing required elements and fails to follow the directions completely.</p>
<b>Slide Show Layout &amp; Aesthetics</b>	<p>The layout is effective and corresponds to an overall presentation of your ideas.</p> <p>The slide show is organized, neat, effective, and visually pleasing.</p>	<p>The layout is logical and represents a clear presentation of ideas.</p> <p>The slide show is lacking in professionalism and/or organization in places.</p>	<p>The layout is confusing at best. The slide show is lacking in overall planning and execution. Elements may be sloppy or unclear.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposal</b></p>	<p>The list of action plan ideas is specific, clear, and is based upon your own personal interests and abilities. The ideas presented are achievable and are presented in a clear and compelling way.</p>	<p>The list of action plan ideas is underdeveloped. It is not specific and does not include clearly written action steps.</p>	<p>The list of action plan ideas is too general and does not connect to your own interests and abilities. It does not include a plan of action and is confusing.</p>
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*In this honors class, I expect you to apply careful analysis to the work you produce. I invite you to personalize this project and the remainder of your assignments this year as much as you are able. Rather than merely demonstrating your ability to read and write with clarity, I invite you to take a step further and apply curiosity to your studies. Ask the hard questions and use each assignment to promote your own personal learning and growth, beginning now.*