Summer Assignments

AP Language and Composition Students
Episcopal Collegiate School

FINDING MY **VOICE**
FINDING MY **PLACE**

Required:

1) Read ***Amusing Ourselves to Death*** by Neil Postman (ISBN 978014036531)

2) Read **at least one** book from the list below. Click here for details about each!

During the opening weeks of school, we will discuss and write about Postman's argument concerning the impact that changes in media and technology have had on education, political discourse, and our capacity for critical thought. For your choice text, we will likewise focus on how your author develops an argument about the world. With all this in mind, please read with a pen in hand, making annotations that will be helpful in our discussion and writing this fall. When you annotate, consider the following questions for each book:

- What specific event, trend, or shift inspired the author to write?
- Who is the audience for this book and message?
- What specific arguments does the author make?
- How does the author use the resources of language to make his or her point?

Choose One:

Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
Bryson, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* Capote, *In Cold Blood*
DeLillo, *White Noise*
Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*
Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*
Epstein, *Range*
Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
Gilman, *Herland*
Haidt, *The Anxious Generation*
Heller, *Catch-22*
Huxley, *Brave New World*
Kerouac, *On the Road*
Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible*
Larson, *The Devil in the White City*
Michaels, *Fugitive Pieces*
Morrison, *Beloved*
O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
Orwell, *1984*
Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
Sanders, *A Private History of Awe*
Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*
Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Sinclair, *The Jungle*
Spiegelman, *Maus I* and *Maus II*
Thoreau, *Walden*
Twenge, *iGen*
Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*
Warren, *All the King's Men*
Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*

Questions? Email Simon Gooch at sgooch@episcopalcollegiate.org