

INNOVATION ACADEMY – HONORS LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION II

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

In *The Other Wes Moore*, author (and current Maryland governor) Wes Moore explores themes of identity, opportunity, and the impact of environment on individual destiny. This dual narrative tells the true story of two individuals who share the same name but have drastically different life experiences due to the environment in which they are raised, the opportunities they are presented with, and ultimately, the choices they make.

Your tasks:

1. **Read and annotate the text.** While completing this assignment, remember to read **actively** and engage with the text through written annotation – capture your thoughts, questions, reactions, and challenges to the text as you read. Define unfamiliar terms. Use sticky notes if you’re borrowing a copy of the book.
 - For more about how (and why!) to annotate a book, check out [this primer](#) from UNC Chapel Hill.
 - ❖ **Bring your annotated text to the first day of class!**
 2. **Select, transcribe, and justify MVPs.** There are three parts to the book (“Fathers and Angels,” “Choices and Second Chances,” and “Paths Taken and Expectations Fulfilled”), each offering unique insights into the lives of the two Wes Moores.
 - a. **Choose** one “MVP” (Most Valuable Passage) for each of the three parts of the book,
 - b. **Transcribe** that passage into your response document with a parenthetical page-number citation, and
 - c. In a few sentences that clearly demonstrate your understanding of the text, **explain** why you selected it as the most valuable passage in that part.
 - Your MVP can be a single sentence, two sentences, or even a whole paragraph; what’s crucial is that you articulate why it resonated with you and its significance to the overall narrative.
 - Your written justification should be **personal** in nature and does not need to be **formal** in style
 - ❖ **This work is to be completed on a single text document; to be submitted the first week of school.**
 3. **Build a slide deck and prepare for a short reflection-and-introduction presentation.** In the first week of school, everyone will share aloud a brief, heavily visual, engaging presentation that communicates the following:
 - a. Your thoughts on the summer reading assignment, including your thoughts on the text
 - b. One of your three selected MVPs and your rationale for its importance
 - c. A brief autobiographical introduction of yourself that includes consideration of your own identity and how your environment has impacted your own individual destiny.
 - Your presentation should occupy **at least three minutes and not more than five minutes**. PRACTICE and REFINE your presentation before the first week of school!!
 - Use as many slides as you need!
 - Include less text! Include more images! Make sure these images are meaningful!
 - Cite any images gathered from other sources in a final slide – use [MLA citational guidelines](#)!
 - ❖ **Download your slide deck as a PPT, PPTX, or PDF file; to be submitted in the first week of school.**
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This assignment is to be completed independently. This work isn’t about being right or wrong, it is about communicating **personal** understandings and opinions, what **you** found interesting/unique/profound and why **you** felt that way. Your insights and interpretations are what make this assignment meaningful, and we encourage you to approach it with curiosity and critical thinking. **Using any type of AI in completing this assignment is strictly prohibited.**

NOTE: There are a few copies of *The Other Wes Moore* here at IA. You’re welcome to come to room 191 any morning before 8:55am for the remainder of the semester and sign out a copy to borrow! **Remember to use sticky notes for annotations in borrowed books.**