

Contemporary Research & Writing
2024
Summer Assignment

Dear Students,

Welcome to Contemporary Research & Writing! These summer assignments will help you to get in the correct mindset to approach all reading and writing with an evaluative eye - a skillset you will utilize throughout the course.

The course is founded on a concept known as QUEST:

Question and explore

Understand and analyze

Evaluate multiple perspectives

Synthesize ideas

Team, transform, and transmit

Part I: Read a nonfiction book. The compiled list of books below are available at local libraries or can be purchased at a local bookstore or online retailer.

- Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal by Eric Schlosser
- Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt
- Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
- The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through the Madness Industry by Jon Ronson

Your Assignment: Do a close reading of the text. A close reading means to keep a pencil or pen in your hand as you read and make notes in the margins, underline confusing and/or favorite passages, highlight interesting information, and comment on significant language. You are expected to annotate every chapter. Use Post-It notes if you'd prefer not to write in the book (especially if it's a library book!) Click [HERE](#) to review "12 Ways to Mark Up a Text."

You will present your choice to a small group of your peers early in the school year.

Part II: Read the news...both national and international.

Use the list below of national and international news organizations (or locate your own) to locate two news articles (one national and one international) of interest to you. For each of the articles, you will:

- Print and annotate each article (see "Twelve Ways to Mark Up a Book" linked above). You may also use Kami or another online annotation tool if you prefer.
- Create an MLA citation (works cited entry) for each article. Click [HERE](#) for formatting.

- ❑ In at least one typed paragraph, under the citation:
- ❑ Identify the different issues presented.
- ❑ Discuss how each side presents its argument.
- ❑ Discuss which side you feel is more convincing in its argument and why.
- ❑ Utilize quotes from the articles for support.

You will present your news sources to a small group of your peers early in the school year.

Possible Sources:

- BBC News (International)
- The Economist (National)
- NPR (National)
- Toronto Star (International)
- Al Jazeera (International)
- Wall Street Journal (National)
- Associated Press (International)
- The Guardian (International)
- New York Times (National)
- Washington Post (National)
- Slate (National)
- Time Magazine (National)
- The Globe and Mail (International)
- CBC News (International)
- Chicago Tribune (National)
- Miami Herald (National)
- New Zealand Herald (International)
- ABC/NBC/CBS News (National)
- Bloomberg (National)
- USA Today (National)

I look forward to working with you throughout the year and helping you on your journey through Contemporary Research & Writing.

Please email with any questions throughout the summer. I look forward to seeing you in August!

Happy reading!
Ms. Johnson
kjohnson@fbns.org