

## Contemporary Research and Writing Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Dear Students,

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

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The course is founded on a concept known as QUEST:

**Q**uestion and explore  
**U**nderstand and analyze  
**E**valuate multiple perspectives  
**S**ynthesize ideas  
**T**eam, transform, and transmit

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### **Part One: Read a nonfiction book.**

This year, you will be reading *GRIT: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth. This book can be found online:

[Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance: Duckworth, Angela: 9781501111112:](#)  
[Amazon.com: Books](#)

**Your Assignment:** Do a close reading of the text. A close reading means to keep a pencil or pen in your hands as you read and make notes in the margins, underlining confusing and/or favorite passages, underline interesting information, and comment on specific language. You are expected to annotate every chapter. You may use Post-It notes if you prefer not to write in the book.

You will be sharing your annotations and reflections of this book with your peers early in the school year.

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### **Part Two: Read the news...community, state, national, and international.**

Use the list below of news organizations (or locate your own) to locate two news articles that thematically support the ideas from GRIT.. These news articles should not be specific to the same location (i.e. one state and one nation OR one national and one international). For each of the articles, you will:

- Print and annotate each article.
- For each article, hand write on notebook paper:
  - Identify the different issues presented.
  - Describe how each article presents its argument.
  - Describe which side you feel is more convincing in its argument and why.
  - Utilize quotes from the article for support.

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

Possible sources:

- ❖ BBC News (international)
- ❖ The Economist (national)
- ❖ NPR (state and national)
- ❖ Toronto Star (international)
- ❖ Al Jazeera (international)
- ❖ Wall Street Journal (national)
- ❖ Associated Press (international)
- ❖ The Guardian (international)
- ❖ New York Times (national)
- ❖ Slate (national)
- ❖ Time Magazine (national)
- ❖ The Globe and Mail (international)
- ❖ CBC News (international)
- ❖ Chicago Tribune (national)
- ❖ New Zealand Herald (international)
- ❖ ABC/NBC/CBS/Fox News (state and national)
- ❖ Bloomberg (national)
- ❖ USA Today (national)

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

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

Happy Reading!  
Mrs. Wheeler  
kwheeler@fbns.org

