

English 12/Senior Seminar
Summer Reading and Writing Assignment
Manlius Pebble Hill School
June 2018
Mr. Montas

Welcome to English 12! (Most of the time, I call this class “Senior Seminar.”) I hope you are excited to start the summer and have exciting plans for it. If not, sometimes it’s great just to slow down and enjoy life as it comes. Still, you have some work to do to keep your mind sharp as the temperature rises. If you have any questions about the course or this summer assignment, don’t hesitate to see me before school ends, or get in touch with me by email (fmontas@mphschool.org) or text (315-263-2231). The website for this course is <https://mphseniorseminar.blogspot.com>, and there you’ll find helpful information about the course as well as external links. You can find assignments from previous years by scrolling through the posts, but keep in mind that key parts of the course change from year to year, and for next year, I’m planning more changes than usual.

Your summer reading and writing assignment consists of three parts; you can complete them in any order. Feel free to read the summer reading book on an electronic reader; just be sure to annotate your book whether you read it digitally or in print. And don’t hesitate to get it from the library; there is a risk, however, if it’s the only copy in the system, that it might be recalled for another reader’s use.

Part 1: Read and annotate one of the books below, and then complete the following writing assignment: In a three-page paper, assess the success of your book. You can establish your own criteria for your book’s success (you should probably identify those criteria in the introduction, or at the start of each body paragraph), or you can consider these: Does the book accomplish either what the author sets out to accomplish, or what you think it should accomplish? Be sure to use quotes to support your points. Your essay will be evaluated based on the following: the depth of your insights, the clarity of your writing, the organization of your ideas, and the evidence you provide to support those ideas. Your essay must be in 12-point Times font, and double-spaced with one-inch margins. This assignment is due the first day that you have class (including the first day of school). You may choose another book to read, but you must clear it with me. (The page numbers listed below are just a guide; some books have a lot of pages but have a smaller format with a large font; others have fewer pages, but have a larger format and smaller font.)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Purple Hibiscus* (novel). 336 pages,

Beth Buelow, *The Introvert Entrepreneur: Amplify Your Strengths and Create Success on Your Own Terms*. 272 pages.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*. 236 pages.

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Buried Giant* (novel). 336 pages.

Hope Jahren, *Lab Girl*. 304 pages.

Ha Jin, *Waiting* (novel). 308 pages.

Steven Johnson, *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Changed the World*. 320 pages.

Paul Kalanithi, *When Breath Becomes Air*. 256 pages.

Alec Ross, *The Industries of the Future*, 320 pages.

Shea Serrano, *Basketball (and Other Things): A Collection of Questions Asked, Answered, and Illustrated*. 240 pages.

Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. 381 pages.

Sarah Vowell, *Lafayette in the United States*. 288 pages.

Part 2: Respond to two of the activities listed in the Make Your World a Better Place grid at the end of this document. Each response should be about 300 words, and not more than 500 words (roughly a page-and-a-half) in length. Email your responses to me as you complete them (fmontas@mphschool.org). Simply write about what you did and how you felt about it. They are due no later than the first day you have class with me, either Tuesday, September 4, or Wednesday, September 5.

Part 3: Make preliminary notes for STP's action plan and research plan. For the action plan, consider the following: For the research plan, consider the following: Which of the writing options will you pursue? How will you complete it by the end of March? What will you need to complete it? Bring these notes for both the action plan and the research plan to the first day of class.

If you have any questions about these assignments, don't hesitate to get in touch with me by email (fmontas@mphschool.org) or by text (315 263 2231).

Have a great summer!

MAKE YOUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE—SUMMER 2018

Accomplish at least two of these deeds, and have fun doing so! Write approximately one page about each experience that doesn't already involve writing. Email these writings to me by the first day of school.

Offer to help someone who won't ask for help, and actually help that person.	Read a book aloud to someone at least five years younger or fifty years older than you.	Write to your congressional representative about an issue that matters greatly to you.	Do someone else's household chore(s) without being asked and without expecting anything in return.
Cook a meal or make a dessert for a friend or your family to make them happy.	Sort out belongings that you no longer need and give them to charity.	Watch two films from the American Film Institute (AFI) Top 100 Movies list, one of which should be black and white.*	Lie on the grass and gaze at the clouds or stars or both.
Write a letter to the editor of a local or national publication.	Make a list of all the positive things that you can be thankful for and write thank you notes or letters to the appropriate people.	Read a book or some stories or some poems by an author from a country you've never visited or can't locate on a map.	Handwrite a letter to someone special and mail it.
Learn to play a song on a musical instrument you don't already play.	Do something with someone you love but don't talk to very much.	Watch the news and share stories that you think need more attention.	Turn off your online presence and avoid social media for three days.
Grow something you can eat and share it with others.	Learn a poem, speech, or passage of writing by heart.	Try a new food or meal you aren't sure how to pronounce.	Make a list of things you'd like to accomplish before graduating from MPH.

*This list is available at <http://www.afi.com/100years/movies10.aspx>.