

Summer Assignment for ALL COURSES, grades 9-12

Read the selected text:

World Literature 9, Plus and Honors: *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell

World Literature 10: *A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

American Literature: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

AP Language: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

British Literature: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

AP Literature—*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

The list of questions below is related to the literature that you will read and analyze in your English classes from your freshman to senior year. As our goal is to enhance your critical thinking and close reading skills, we also want to provide you with the opportunity to pragmatically apply universal ideas to your understanding of your world.

From the eight questions below, choose five that you consider relevant to your summer reading text. For each question, choose two quotations that exemplifies the idea or that you could use to respond to the question. Quotations must be typed, single or double-spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman.

1. How is our understanding of culture and society constructed through and by language? In what ways are story, language, and power inseparable?
2. What factors shape our cultural values and beliefs? How do individuals reconcile competing belief systems within a given society? How do religion and spirituality shape a culture?
3. How do we form and shape our identities? When can a positive personality trait become a flaw? In the face of adversity, what causes some individuals to prevail while others fail?
4. What are the factors that move individuals, families, communities, and nations to great sacrifice? What are the consequences?
5. How are the various roles of a hero culturally defined?
6. What is community and what are the individual's responsibilities to the community, as well as the community's responsibilities to the individual? What does it mean to be an insider or an outsider?
7. How does perspective shape or alter the perception of truth?
8. To what extent does power or the lack of power affect individuals?