

Anatomy of Writing Summer Reading and Writing Assignment 2019-2020



Your assignment this summer is to prepare to write. There is no novel to read because your Anatomy of Writing class is not about literature. Instead, you will be writing and revising and rethinking what you wrote to improve your writing.

Assignment: Read the 4 essays included in this packet and respond to the questions for each. Each question will tell you HOW to respond (list, short answer, or extended response).

- For a List: You need to number the items in the list and include the required explanation for each item.
- For Short Answer responses: You need to have complete sentences and a developed/ supported idea. You should include at least one quote from the essay. Your response should illustrate a thoughtful understanding of the essay.
- For an Extended Response: You need to develop a multi paragraph response that shows thoughtful reflection and a connection to/understanding of the essay. Each paragraph should include at least one quotation from the essay.

You must respond to the following types of questions:

- **Honors Students:** 3 List, 4 Short Answer, 2 Extended Response.
- **Core Students:** 3 List, 3 Short Answer, 1 Extended Response

When is it due? These responses are due on the first day of the school year and will be graded on both your content as well as the mechanics of good writing.

Note: There is differentiation for honors vs core students (9 responses for honors vs. 7 required for core). See your guidance counselor if you are not sure of which class you are enrolled in.

**H A P P Y
W R I T I N G**

“Is Google Making Us Stupid” by Nicholas Carr

1. SHORT ANSWER: Though Carr is writing about a large social phenomenon, he begins with a scene from an old movie and some personal reflection. Why do you think he chose to begin his essay in this way?
2. EXTENDED RESPONSE: Think back to the last school year and how much multitasking you attempted. How much time do you spend focusing on one task at a time? How do you use technology or how much are you distracted by technology? Reflect on your own relationship with information technology, thinking about its effects on the way you work and think.

“On Keeping a Notebook” by Joan Didion

1. LIST: Didion is known as a master stylist. Find five sentences you think are interesting, unusual, well-constructed, or somehow stand out in “On Keeping a Notebook.” What makes each of them good?
2. SHORT ANSWER: What are the reasons that Didion keeps a notebook? What are reasons that other people might keep them that are not her reasons?
3. SHORT ANSWER: Are you on “nodding terms” with the person you used to be, to borrow Didion’s line (par.16)? Pick a time in your life and reflect on your relationship to the person you were then. What kinds of things about that time do you remember? Do you remember how these things made you feel or what you thought about them? Do the events you remember and your reactions you remember tell you something about who we were then? Do you find that person “attractive company”?

“Reading to Write” by Stephen King

1. LIST: “Reading to Write” might not seem to be literature—it’s nonfiction and informational rather than narrative—but it is well written. Find five sentences you think are interesting, unusual, well-constructed, or somehow stand out. What makes each of them good?
2. EXTENDED RESPONSE: How does reading make you a writer? What kind of reading has influenced you as a writer? Tell a story from your life that can serve as an example for these questions.

“The Loser Edit” by Colson Whitehead

1. LIST: Whitehead’s work is admired in part for the strength of its style. One aspect of this style is the creation of memorable phrases. Find five sentences you think are interesting, unusual, well-constructed, or somehow stand out. Why do you think Whitehead constructs them in this way?
2. SHORT ANSWER: What is a loser edit and what phenomenon outside of reality TV does Whitehead use it as a metaphor for?
3. SHORT ANSWER: Think of a time when you have asked yourself the kinds of questions Whitehead says we ask ourselves after the fact (“Why did I say that?”). Are there events you look back on that give you that feeling? Do you learn from these moments or try to forget them and move on?
4. EXTENDED RESPONSE: Reality TV is a relatively new phenomenon in American popular culture. What kinds of stories do we find ourselves telling about ourselves and each other? What does this say about the way our society is organized, what it values, how it treats individuals?

AOW Summer Reading/Writing Rubric

Student Name: _____

(circle one) **C** or **H**

Honors Students: 3 List, 4 Short Answer, 2 Extended Response.

Core Students: 3 List, 3 Short Answer, 1 Extended Response

List C: 3/ H:3	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Acceptable (3)	Insufficient (2 - below)
#1	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is thoughtful, with significance which directly relates to the reading.	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is thoughtful, with significance which relates to the reading.	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is somewhat clear, with some connection to the reading.	Required items are not all included. Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading.
#2	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is thoughtful, with significance which directly relates to the reading.	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is thoughtful, with significance which relates to the reading.	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is somewhat clear, with some connection to the reading.	Required items are not all included. Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading.
#3	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is thoughtful, with significance which directly relates to the reading.	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is thoughtful, with significance which relates to the reading.	Items are numbered and include the required explanation for each item. Response is somewhat clear, with some connection to the reading.	Required items are not all included. Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading.

_____ / 15 points

Short Answer C: 3 H: 4	Excellent (8-7)	Good (6)	Acceptable (5)	Insufficient (4 - below)
#1	Thorough, thoughtful response with significance which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows a thorough understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Thorough, response with which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Somewhat thorough response with significance which relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an attempt at understanding the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading. OR There is no quote included.
#2	Thorough, thoughtful response with significance which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows a thorough understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Thorough, response with which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Somewhat thorough response with significance which relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an attempt at understanding the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading. OR There is no quote included.
#3	Thorough, thoughtful response with significance which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows a thorough understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Thorough, response with which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Somewhat thorough response with significance which relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an attempt at understanding the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading. OR There is no quote included.

#4 HONORS ONLY	Thorough, thoughtful response with significance which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows a thorough understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Thorough, response with which directly relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an understanding of the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Somewhat thorough response with significance which relates to the reading and includes at least one quote from the reading. The response shows an attempt at understanding the reading and is developed with complete sentences.	Response is unclear, incoherent, or irrelevant and/or does not connect to the reading. OR There is no quote included.
-----------------------	--	--	--	---

CORE: _____ / 24 HONORS: _____ / 32

Extended Response C: 1/ H:2	Excellent (6)	Good (5)	Acceptable (4)	Insufficient (3- below)
Organization	Response is a multiparagraph essay that has a logical organization and transitions well between ideas.	Response is a multiparagraph essay that has an obvious organization and transitions well between ideas.	Response is a multiparagraph essay that is organized.	There does not seem to be an attempt at organization.
Score Extended Response 1:			Score HONORS ONLY 2:	
Content	There is one clear, well-focused topic or theme that addresses the topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Main idea or theme is clear and addresses the prompt. Focus might drift a bit.	Main idea or theme is somewhat clear. Some parts are off topic or confusing or do not address the prompt.	The main idea or theme is not clear. OR The prompt was not addressed appropriately.
Score Extended Response 1:			Score HONORS ONLY 2:	
Content -Support for Topic	Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable. Includes appropriate specific, cited textual evidence.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the analysis is unsupported. Includes appropriate specific, textual evidence with minimal citation errors.	Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the essay are unsupported. Includes appropriate specific, textual evidence with attempted citation	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic. Fails to include specific textual evidence OR fails to cite.
Score Extended Response 1:			Score HONORS ONLY 2:	
Voice and Tone - Adding Personality	The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience. The author has taken the ideas and made them "his own." Writing seems natural, conveys an appropriate tone, and shows personality.	The writer seems to be drawing on knowledge or experience, but there is some lack of ownership of the topic. Writing seems somewhat natural but tone is not appropriate or consistent.	The writer relates some of his own knowledge or experience, but it adds nothing to the discussion of the topic. The tone is inappropriate and writing is unnatural.	The writer has not tried to transform the information in a personal way. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else. Writing is too mechanical.
Score Extended Response 1:			Score HONORS ONLY 2:	
Writing Quality & Conventions	Sentences are well-constructed and interesting. Writer follows all conventions, and the paper is completely readable.	Sentences are well-constructed. Writer follows writing conventions, though a few mistakes are hard to decipher.	Writer uses complete sentences. Writer attempts to follow conventions, but makes several serious errors.	Writer fails to follow conventions. The paper is hard to understand.
Score Extended Response 1:			Score HONORS ONLY 2:	

CORE: _____ / 30 HONORS: _____ / 60

CORE TOTAL: _____ / 69 HONORS TOTAL:
_____ / 107