

## 9th Grade Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

Greetings Freshmen!

This upcoming school year is the start of your high school career! Congratulations on making it to this point. With 2019-2020 soon underway, I wanted to prepare you over the summer for what you should expect. While the summer is a wonderful time to rest, it is also an ideal time to maintain your reading and writing skills. Therefore, over the summer you will be writing a series of journal essays and submitting them to me on the first day of school.



First, let's discuss where you will submit your essays. Take some time with your parent or guardian this summer to purchase a **composition notebook**. You can find these at Walgreens, grocery stores, dollar stores, Target or Walmart. Most cost less than \$1. On this notebook, you must include **your name and a photo of yourself** on the front cover. I recommend taking a selfie, printing it, and pasting it on the cover. Of course, it must be appropriate and clearly show who you are.

Below is a list of **ten assignments** you will complete in your **composition notebook**. **Each assignment must be neatly written in blue or black ink and consist of at least ONE FULL PAGE of writing. Your writing should be organized into strong paragraphs leading with a topic sentence and providing evidence and information to support each paragraph. Submission of your composition notebook will be your first TEST GRADE for the year!**

### Journal Essay #1: Autobiography

Prompt: *Tell me about yourself. Use the structure below to format your writing.*

- a. Paragraph 1: Begin with birth. Tell me when you, your parents, and grandparents were born. Also, tell me about your background. Who are your ancestors? Is there anything interesting about your family lineage?
- b. Paragraph 2: Share information about your educational background. Tell me what schools you have attended. Also, reflect about one teacher or administrator who has strongly impacted you in your past.
- c. Paragraph 3: Share your favorite hobbies or sports.
- d. Paragraph 4: Share an experience that has changed your life or your perspective. How has this experience motivated you to be a better person? What lessons did you learn?

- e. Paragraph 5: Goals. What are your goals for the future and how do you plan on obtaining those goals? Think about a career you would like to pursue, a dream you wish to experience, or even a college you wish to attend.

**Journal #2: A Societal Problem You Would Like To Change**

Read 1-2 articles from a newspaper either online or print, and write an essay about a societal problem. Some suggested sources are *New York Times*, *CNN News* or *the Washington Post*. Prompt: *You must also explain WHY you want this problem to change and HOW you would cause change. Some societal issues might be world hunger, poverty, racial inequality, police brutality, education, etc. Be sure to cite the articles you used to write this essay.*

**Journal #3: Motivational Quote**

Search and identify ONE motivational quote.

Prompt: *Explain what that quote means and how it pertains to your life. In other words, why is this quote important to you?*

**Journal # 4: A Cherished Item.**

Prompt: *What is one thing in your life that you would NEVER give up? Explain why. What does it mean to you? Why is it important?*

**Journal #5: Read & Write.**

Read "The Cost of Prison in Dollars and Lives" (See attached). Then answer the journal prompt: *In the text, the author stresses that juvenile offenders shouldn't be treated like adults, except in the highest-risk situations. Do you agree with this opinion? Why or why? How do you think juvenile offenders can be held accountable for their crimes, while also working towards rehabilitation?*

**Journal #6: Read & Write.**

Read "Serena Williams' Catsuit Controversy Evokes the Battle Over Women Wearing Shorts." (See attached). Then, write an argumentative essay answering this prompt: *Should female athletes have a dress code? Be sure to cite evidence from the article to support your claim.*

**Journal #7: Write a short Story.**

Write a short story on the prompt below.

Prompt: *Describe your day as an invisible person. Use descriptive details and dialogue in your story.*

**Journal #8: Read & Write.**

Read a text of your choice. It must be a text that is at the 9th grade level or higher! You may choose from the news such as *New York Times* or *CNN*. You may also choose a novel or short story.

Prompt: *Write a brief summary of the text. Then, explain its importance to you or society. In other words, what lesson(s) is learned from reading this piece?*

English I  
Miss Pina

I look forward to reading your work during the first week of school. If you have any questions, please email me anytime! Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Miss Pina

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