



ENGLISH SUMMER READING 2017 HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students (& Parents)

It's Summer! We know that you are looking forward to a L-O-N-G and relaxing holiday with your friends and family. We strongly believe that reading is the gateway to academic success and we would like you to build on your successes of the past academic year and prepare for the next one by reading as much as you can during this Summer vacation. This year, the Summer Reading assignment is a little different. As part of your relaxation and preparation for the next academic year, you are required to do two things:

- 1. READ at least one book (novel or other) and**
- 2. follow one news story through a variety of written sources (e.g. newspaper reports / magazine articles / online sources) during this holiday.**

The book may NOT be one that is studied or read at school. A list of suitable books will be made available on Moodle by your teachers. All books should be approved by your parents.

You will be required to complete a thorough report on your selected book. See pages 2 & 3 of this document for guidelines in writing a book review. The report must be handed in during the first weeks of the 2017-2018 academic year. The dates will be given to you by your English teacher next year.

The news story must be analysed using the attached form. You will need to bring your newspaper / magazine / online articles to school in order to complete a written assignment in class at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year.

NOTE: Grade 12 students will be able to use all of the above information as part of their College applications for 2018-2019.



To best write a book review, it is essential to keep track of the answers to the following questions, either as you read the book or as soon as you have finished it. All of the answers can then be incorporated into your review.

SUMMARY

Narration

- Who narrated the story?
- Was it first-person narration or third-person narration?
- Was the narrator a reliable source of information?

Setting

- Note the time period and location the book is set in.
- How did setting drive or influence the plot of the book?

Theme

- Note the overall theme or message of the book.

Genre

- What genre of literature was it?
- How did it compare to another work in this genre?

Author

- Name the author.
- Discuss any previous works.
- How did previous works compare with this work?

Plot

- Give a brief plot summary without giving away any key details.

EVALUATION

Your Opinion

- This is the most important part of the review.
- Did you like it? Why?
- Dislike it? Why?
- Would you read more by this author? Why or why not?
- Would you encourage others to read this book? Why or why not?

Writing a Book Review

Purpose

The purpose of a book review is to help other people decide whether or not they want to read a book. You do this by summarizing the book and by evaluating how well the writer wrote the book. The book review can explain the positive aspects of the book, the negative aspects of the book, or both.

Length

Book reviews can be any length. Some book reviews are only one or two paragraphs. Others are several pages. The length of the review will depend on who your audience is. If the audience is your teacher, ask her/him about the length.

Style and Content

The style and content of your book review can also vary depending on your audience (who you are writing for). For example, if your book was a factual book about how deafness affects children's learning styles, you would write differently for different audiences. If you are writing for new parents of deaf children, you might provide a very detailed explanation of the subject matter; if you were writing for teachers of deaf children, you could provide less detail because you would assume that they already have a good understanding of the topic.

The content of your book review will vary depending on whether the book is fiction or non-fiction. For example, if you are writing a book review about a work of fiction, you should probably analyze the book's characters, plot, setting, and theme. If you are writing about a non-fiction book, you will need to evaluate how useful, correct, and well-presented the book's information is.

Format

Book reviews should be formatted like an essay. This means that you need to write an essay with an introduction, body and conclusion.

The introductory paragraph of a book review usually includes . . .

- **the main idea** for a non-fiction book or the **theme** for fiction;
- **identify** the author, the title of the book and publisher
- **author's background**
- **your thesis** (your opinion why other people should read the book).

The body of your essay must include . . .

- your **summary** of the main points of the book;
- your **evaluation** of the book where you explain to your reader why they should read the book or not.

The conclusion of your essay . . .

- **should remind your reader of your thesis.**
- may also review the main points of your essay.



TRACKING A NEWS STORY

Make a comparative and critical analysis, considering the different ways in which a major news item is presented via the written media.

Instructions – Task requirements

1. **Select any ONE news event** that occurs during your Summer vacation. It can be related to anything (such as: any **natural disaster** e.g. floods in Sri Lanka / **sporting event** e.g. Wimbledon tennis tournament / **politics** e.g. British general election)
2. **Select at least 3 sources of written media** (different types of newspaper, magazines and Internet/online articles).
3. Using the **news media chart** (see p. 5 of this document), compare the coverage the event receives. You could observe this over several days. You may adapt this chart to suit your needs.
4. Once you have completed your news media chart, **write up your rough analysis** of the media coverage of the event you focused on. Using insight, your analysis should **include the following**:
 - a) **State** the event you selected and **state** the different forms of media you chose. Also mention why you chose these forms of media (eg. easily accessible, visuals more appealing as opposed to reading lengthy articles, most popular form of media, etc.).
 - b) Make a **comparison** of how the event has been covered in the different forms of media you focused on.
 - o Compare and give a **brief discussion** of which medium gave the most complete coverage of the event?
 - o Compare and give a **brief discussion** of which medium left you with questions, wishing you had more information about the issue?
 - o **Discuss** in which ways did the news coverage differ between the media? Did you notice anything about the “angle” taken on the event?
 - c) **Reflect** critically on your analysis and **briefly discuss** the following question: Would getting all your news and information from any **one** particular medium make you an informed person? Validate your answer (i.e.) - why or why not?
5. Write down **your personal views** regarding the media after you have analysed media coverage.
6. **Your written analysis will be done in class, under the guidance and supervision of your English teacher.**
Make sure you have enough material with you so that you can write a thorough evaluation of the coverage of your chosen event. You may include images of the event covered. You will have to attach all of the material, and the news media chart to your written reflection.



You may adapt this table to suit your purposes.

Title of event: _____

Date and place of event: _____

	MEDIA SOURCE 1	MEDIA SOURCE 2	MEDIA SOURCE 3
Name, date, time (if necessary)			
Main points of story covered			
Briefly describe the different types of visuals used. State if no visuals were used or described. Give possible reasons.			
Interviews – name people who were questioned/reported with regard to the event. Evidence of independent verification?			
Quotes/comments from experts or others concerning event. Evidence of independent verification?			
Other – any extra info related to the event.			