

Summer Reading Assignment 2012
AP Language and Composition

Over the summer, you are to complete the following assignments. **All work must be handed in on the first day of school and must be typed. No late work will be accepted.**

Reading Choices

You are required to read the following book:

- ✓ *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich

You must also choose another book from the following list:

- ✓ *Columbine* by Dave Cullen
- ✓ *Savage Inequalities* by Jonathan Kozol
- ✓ *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- ✓ *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson
- ✓ *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote
- ✓ *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer
- ✓ *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick

Dialectical Journal

As you read, you must keep a **dialectical journal**. Each dialectical journal should include no fewer than fifteen typed entries for each book. **(HINT: These dialectical journals will help you a great deal on the first day of school.)**

***What is a Dialectical Journal?**

A dialectic journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. A dialectical journal is a journal that records a dialogue, or conversation, between the ideas in the text (the words that you are reading) and the ideas of the reader (the person who is doing the reading). This is what you must do in your journal—keep a dialogue with yourself. Write down your thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas while you read. The important part is that you, the reader, are reading something and then responding to it with your feelings and ideas!

An additional note on the dialectic journal: use this assignment to demonstrate **your understanding of literary analysis, literature, and literary terms**. I expect you to explore the texts, providing smart observations about how they work through literary analysis, explaining the intricacies of their characters and themes, mining the authors' use of literary techniques, and discussing how we are to consider these books in a cultural or historical context. I expect you not only to make connections within the texts, based on theme, imagery, character, narrative structure, and other literary devices, but also to connect these things both to American culture and to other novels you've read.

Do not use incidents in these books as springboards to a discussion or recollection of events in your *own* personal narrative. This is NOT a summary of what you read. The purpose of this assignment is to determine how well you understand the **author's craft**.

Your journal will use a two-entry form:

- ✓ In the LEFT COLUMN, write down parts of paragraphs from our books and articles, quotes, or notes from class that you think are interesting or important.
- ✓ In the RIGHT COLUMN, write down YOUR OWN thoughts, commentary, and questions about the stuff in the LEFT COLUMN.
- ✓ See back for example of Dialectic Journal format

Example of Dialectical Journal

Last Name 1		
First and Last Name AP English Language and Composition Date		
Summer Reading Assignment		
<i>Nickel and Dimed</i> by Barbara Ehrenreich		
Page #	Quotation or parts of paragraphs that you think are interesting or important.	Your own thoughts, commentary, questions, insights, connections, etc.
199	Something is wrong, very wrong, when a single person in good health, a person who in addition possesses a working car, can barely support herself by the sweat of her brow.	Is Ehrenreich's experience any different than that of the average American in 2012? I would hope that she is biased in her beliefs, but I have a feeling that the dilemmas she faces as a low-wage worker are true, honest, and indicative of a major problem in our culture. Her text is a real social commentary about economics, class, and society. She also alludes to specific problems with the health care system. I wonder if she will eventually discuss the impact of education on all of these things.

Contact information for the AP English Language and Composition Teachers:

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You are expected to email us with any questions; no excuses will be accepted on the day you return to school!