



CITY HONORS SCHOOL
SUMMER READING 2018



Entering Grade 10

What our ELA faculty expects you to read this summer

Read these documents from *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*, Samuel Cohen (5th edition)*

-“Just Walk on By: Black Men and Public Space” Brent Staples

-“The Declaration of Independence” Thomas Jefferson

-“Me Talk Pretty One Day” David Sedaris

Read this additional document:

-“Letter From Birmingham Jail” Martin Luther King, Jr. (any printed PDF file)

* Please consider purchasing a copy of this text as it will be used throughout our course in grade ten. Prices range from \$12 used to \$25 new. A copy will be provided to you during the school year if you are unable to purchase a copy.

Why we expect you to complete this reading

Reading complex texts builds confidence and competence. In AP Language, we will focus on the art of a writer’s craft, so the more experience you have contemplating how and why a work was composed, the more comfortable you will become writing about it and discussing it. With that in mind, read beyond the assigned work. Read all that you can! Take notice of *how* a text is composed and what it calls the reader to contemplate. Become curious about the topics that people write about, and pay attention to the choices authors make when discussing complex ideas. Consider keeping a curiosity journal or a learning log, not for a grade, but to engage with the world around you.

What you should do before you read these texts

This anthology contains 50 incredibly important essays from a broad variety of respected writers taking a close look at societal issues of their time. To understand the context of the book, conduct brief research on the four writers in question – MLK Jr, Staples, Jefferson and Sedaris – to better understand the historical eras in which the work was originally published. While it is expected that you will come to class with the text, *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*, if you experience difficulty obtaining the text, all three of the essays AND the MLK Jr essay can easily be found in PDF form and printed at home to then annotate.

What you should do while you are reading

It is expected that you will read the four essays *in their entirety* and annotate or keep notes for both the literary elements and authorial choices. By maintaining a two-sided journal, include quotes that contain significant literary devices or authorial choices on one side, with an explanation of their importance on the other side. As you read, also consider the historical context in your annotated notes.

How we will make use of the reading when we return to school

We will begin the year using this text in class discussion and for a variety of analysis. Further, all students will participate in multiple Socratic Seminars and Fishbowl discussions to share your annotations as we work toward building a deeper appreciation of how the writing was constructed. Your annotated text and/or notes will be useful in completing these assignments.

Additional things you need to succeed in English Language Arts for the upcoming school year

Please be sure that your AP Journal (composition notebook) is intact and ready for another year of notes. Prior to entering Grade 10, review and organize your Pre-AP notes.

Whom to contact for questions

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