

2020 NOVA Dual Enrollment

ENG 111/112 Optional Summer Reading

Next year is not just your final year of high school, but your first year of college. You will get to demonstrate all that you have learned and, in turn, reap the rewards of your many years of schooling. In this course, we will work to better understand writing through writing and reading. We will begin this exploration by trying to better understand the writer's mind. To prepare for next year (and start you on a good path), you should do the following:



1. Choose a level-appropriate narrative nonfiction book.

Narrative nonfiction is traditional journalism fused with storytelling: “Every single sentence, every single word must be true, just like it should be in ordinary, traditional journalism. No scene can be made up, no dialogue invented. The literariness comes from the techniques not from fictionalized events.”

[\(“What is Literary Journalism”\)](#)

Here are some suggestions; however, *you do NOT have to choose from this list.* (Warning: Some texts may have vulgar language or violent imagery. You have total choice, though we recommend narrative nonfiction.)

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families by Philip Gourevitch

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

Born to Run by Christopher McDougall

They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement by Wesley

Lowery

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus by Richard Preston

The Johnstown Flood by David McCullough

Bringing Down the House by Ben Mezrich

Stamped by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi

The Secret Wisdom of Nature by Peter Wohlleben

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

by Daniel James Brown

2. While reading, consider (and take note of) the following:

Literary critic Barbara Lounsberry in *The Art of Fact* suggests four characteristics that encapsulate both traditional journalism (nonfiction; 1 & 2 below) and storytelling (narrative; 3 & 4 below).

1. “Documentable subject matter chosen from the real world as opposed to ‘invented’ from the writer’s mind.” The subject of the book is fact, not fiction. Take note of where and how facts are presented. Are the sources documented?
2. “Exhaustive research.” Again, fact-based storytelling defines the style. An intimate relationship with the facts allows the writer to have a unique perspective on their subject(s) and establishes credibility in their writing. Take note of if/when you see authorial bias. Notice author’s notes, sources, appendices, and other structural elements the author may use to demonstrate perspective on facts presented.
3. “The scene.” Bringing life to the setting and the context of events is integral to differentiate narrative nonfiction from objective reporting. Observe the author's craft - the “art” of storytelling. How does the author bring the subject to life for readers?
4. “Fine writing: a literary prose style.” The writing utilizes narrative/story-like structure, literary features, and distinct language. Examine setting, characterization, point of view, plot development, and other elements of literature. What makes this writer’s writing unique?

(Adapted from [“This is a True Story”](#))

Remember – You are entering a college class. While this assignment is NOT REQUIRED, it is expected that you come prepared to think like a writer, and this assignment will help you begin to think critically about writing.

Your notes should be bulleted ideas in response to the 4 characteristics outlined above, totaling at least 2 pages typed, in 12pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, with MLA header.

For help with MLA formatting, use:

Purdue Owl's MLA Citation Guide online

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_sample_works_cited_page.html

Questions? Contact Mrs. Patterson (alpatterson@fcps.edu) or Mr. Silva (jsilva@fcps.edu).