



Junior Summer Reading List 2017

English III: American Literature

Instructor: Dr. Eli Drabman edrabman@oakwoodway.org

Course: English III

Required Readings: Print, staple and read Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Self-Reliance." pdf:
<https://math.dartmouth.edu/~doyle/docs/self/self.pdf>

Required Assignments:

A reader's response journal will be due on the first day of school. To receive full credit (50 points) for your reader's response journal, adhere to the following guidelines:

- Purchase a new notebook of at least 100 pages. This notebook will also be used for focused free-writes throughout the year, so it should be sturdy. It should also be a notebook that easily folds flat on your desk, allowing you to write comfortably by hand.
- After each time you sit down to read "Self-Reliance," spend five to ten minutes composing a *focused free-write* in response to that day's reading.
- What is a free write? It is exactly what it sounds like: an exercise in which you simply allow yourself to write *freely*, without censoring or evaluating what you are writing (almost like brainstorming). However, these should also be somewhat *focused* in the sense that you are concentrating your attention on the section of "Self-Reliance" that you have just read. Thoughts, feelings, associations (things you are reminded of), etc., are all fair game for a free-write. (Note: these are very different from the essays I will be asking you to write in English III, so I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to write in a more open-ended, unstructured way.)
- Further, your focused free-writes should be responsive, reflective, introspective and creative, rather than evaluative. You are not a literary critic, and you are not writing a Yelp review. Rather, you are demonstrating active, intelligent engagement with what you have read. In short, I want to see that a living, breathing, thinking, feeling, interested and interesting *human being*, rather than a robot, is reading and genuinely engaging with the material under consideration. Obviously, I also want to see that you are actually doing the reading.
- In order to receive full credit, your notebook must include at least five focused free-writes, and they must each be written by hand. Each focused free-write should begin on a new page, with the date appearing at the top of that page along with an indication of the pages under consideration. After you complete each free write, give it a title. I prefer them to be double spaced and roughly a page in length. Yes, you may go over a page. Please write in blue or black ink. If I cannot read your handwriting, points will be taken off. If you have difficulty writing cursive by hand, feel free to print. No, you may not paste word-processed pages into your notebook. If you desire to make the claim that you are somehow unable to write by hand, I need to be notified of this issue by email (edrabman@oakwoodway.org) no later than one week (seven days) prior to the first day of school.

The reader's response journal will be evaluated as follows: I will randomly select five of your focused free-writes to read closely. Each will be worth a possible ten points, based exclusively on two factors:

1. the quality of emotional and intellectual engagement your responses demonstrate
2. whether or not you present evidence of actually having done the reading

Grammar, organization, etc., will not factor into the evaluation of this assignment. This assumes, of course, that I am able to comprehend what you are saying.

The second aspect of this assignment is **annotation** (50 points). In English III, you will use your texts (the ones belonging to you) as workbooks. I want you to write in them, a lot. Every text that you read should be literally covered in your own writing.

Underline important passages, words, images and ideas. Write your own thoughts, feelings and ideas in the margins. Use symbols to keep track of important themes. Use highlighters, pens, pencils, various colors: whatever it takes, and whatever you have available. Textual annotation is not only a means to remain engaged with your reading, but also a way to communicate with yourself and keep track of your ideas.

In order to evaluate the annotation of your "Self-Reliance" texts, I will simply examine five pages at random. Each page will be worth a possible ten points. A blank page receives a zero, while an actively annotated page receives a ten. I will check to ensure that you are not simply writing things randomly in order to receive credit. I should see at least one example of solid annotation, demonstrating genuine engagement, on each and every page of your text.

Approximate Time Needed to Complete Readings and Assignments: 5-10 hours

Course Integration: Ralph Waldo Emerson is a major American author, and his "Self-Reliance" serves as a touchstone for English III all year long.

Alternative Assignments (Please contact the instructor)

Math Courses

Please see <http://www.oakwoodway.org/our-program/high-school/summer-math/index.aspx> for summer math assignments. If you are not certain which course you have chosen or been assigned, please contact the office.

United States History

Course: AP and Regular (non-AP) United States History

Instructor: Mr. Michael Nakade mnakade@oakwoodway.org

Required Readings: Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teachers Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York, Simon and Schuster, 2007 ISBN 978-0-7432-9628-1

Assignments:

Read Chapter 2: 1493 (p. 31 – 69) and analyze Loewen's statement as follows:

"...When they (the textbooks) leave out Las Casas, they omit an interesting idealist with whom we all might identify. When they glorify Columbus, our textbooks prod us toward identifying with the oppressor."

Write one-page summary of what Loewen meant by above.

Read Chapter 3: The Truth about the first Thanksgiving (p. 70 – 92) and analyze Loewen's statement as follow:

"...our popular history of the Pilgrims has not been a process of gaining perspective but of deliberate forgetting. Instead of these important facts, textbooks supply the feel-good minutiae of Squanto's helpfulness..."

Write one-page summary of what Loewen meant by above.

Total length of your report: 2 pages minimum but less than 3 pages.

Amount of time needed to complete the assignment: 8-10 hours

Alternative Assignments (Please contact the instructor)

Booksmart in Morgan Hill is aware of Oakwood's summer reading titles and plans to have copies available.