

**Summer Reading Texts**  
**AP Language and Composition/Crow**

1. [Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass](#) by Frederick Douglass (You may read on a Kindle or other electronic device.)

2. [Fahrenheit 451](#) by Ray Bradbury (You must have the hard copy for this).

**As you are reading each book, consider your writing topic, and annotate relevant passages.**

One of the most moving parts of Frederick Douglass' narrative is his quest to learn how to read and write. He is just beginning to learn when his owner's wife suddenly halts his education because she has become "poisoned" by the evils of slavery. Her actions of forbidding him to learn to read motivated him to go to great lengths to learn how to read and write. His education was a "step" on his path to eventual freedom.

In Bradbury's dystopian society, people merely stopped reading. They were more interested in pleasure than rich intellectual pursuit. The eventual outcome of disinterest in reading is that books were forbidden and burned. Early in the novel Montag experiences an epiphany. He realizes that the books that were being burned in his society contained valuable information. He too realizes the inestimable value of reading and determines to be a part of the resurrection of information that was in the books that his dystopian society had burned.

**You are to write an 800-1000 word argumentative essay on the following topic: How does reading give people hope?**

**Guidelines for writing**

1. All writing must be your original writing.

**If any portion of your writing has been generated from another source such as AI/Chat GPT, or if you have used Cliffs Notes, Spark Notes, etc. you will receive a zero as your first major grade of the quarter, and you will not be allowed to rewrite the essay.** I expect AP students to have the skill as well the thought processes, and the integrity to write an essay on their own.

2. Your essay will be due on the first day of class.

3. Use MLA format. Include a citation for each book on your Works Cited page.

\*\*The following website has an MLA format guide: <https://owl.purdue.edu/>

4. Your essay needs a clear guiding thesis at the end of the first paragraph.

5. Support your points with evidence from both authors. (Keep in mind that one of your books is non-fiction and the other one is fiction).

6. Your essay needs the following components:

--An introduction with an attention grabber/short (one sentence) summary of each work/thesis statement at the end of your introduction

--Three body paragraphs with topic sentences that align with your thesis. Each paragraph needs supporting evidence from the works and elaboration on that evidence. Paragraphs should be structured as follows:

a. Topic Sentence

b. Evidence (Quotes or Evidence)

c. Elaboration

d. Evidence (Quotes or Evidence)

e. Elaboration

--A conclusion that summarizes your overall findings about reading from both works.

6. Do not use first (I) or second person (you) in your writing.

Your essay must give evidence that you have read both works. I am going to be contemplating this topic this summer, and we will probably have a class discussion on these books within the first or second week of class. If you have any questions, you may email me at [ccrowe@ecseagles.com](mailto:ccrowe@ecseagles.com).

\*\*Be prepared for an additional assessment (test, class discussion, etc.) on each of these works. Following the steps below will help you retain the content.

**Suggestions for Reading: You will not be graded on this.**

Some tips for reading adapted from Susan Wise Bauer, *The Well-Educated Mind* (Chapter 5), and Dr. Seth Holler:

**1. Before Reading:**

- a. Read the title page and epigraph. What they reveal or imply about the book or author?
- b. Read the back cover and biographical sketch of the author. How do they contextualize the book in history—in other words, when and where was it written?
- c. Is there a table of contents? If so, what do the number of chapters, and any chapter titles suggest about the book you're about to read?
- d. Warning. Before reading a novel for the first time, skip any introduction not written by the author. Such essays may be useful later, but they are likely to prejudice new readers with interpretations and plot spoilers.

**2. While Reading:**

- a. Keep a running list of characters: their names, titles, quirks, and significant roles in family, society, plot. Consider drawing a family tree or relationship web.
- b. Keep a running list of settings, in both time and space. Make a timeline and use a map.
- c. Summarize what happens in each chapter (plot). In one or two sentences, capture the major event. Each time you resume, reread and revise your summaries.
- d. Keep a list of "important" passages, even if you can't understand precisely why they matter. Write down the page number and briefly describe the passage.

**3. After Reading:**

- a. First, review. If your plot summaries are a fair guide to the book, good. If not, rewrite them with additions, deletions, precisions.
- b. Second, reflect. Once your summaries are sound, answer two questions. Who is the main character and What is the single most important event in the book? If this seems difficult, start small: Who changes most, and which event most dramatically alters the story? Then widen the lens: how does the protagonist change—in personality, circumstance, outlook, or life? And why does the protagonist change—what act, event, or happening causes it?

I would suggest discussing your books with a classmate. Literary discussions can be fun (especially at Starbucks!!) I look forward to hearing your insights!!