

## ENGLISH 3-4 HONORS: SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

In this honors course, there will be an emphasis on preparing students for Common Core through interdisciplinary studies—our focus will be aligning English standards with World History standards, which will reinforce much of what students will do as they prepare to take the AP World History Exam. In addition, this will allow us to explore a wide range of non-fiction, which will better prepare students for the rigor of AP language. Overall, each unit of study will focus on the connections between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends that become evident in literature. Students will explore these topics through inquiry and justify their understanding by synthesizing multiple sources through on demand and full process writing.

As you can see, all of these objectives require strong reading comprehension, apt inquiry skills and effective writing abilities. The assignments described below will assess these skills and allow me to better customize my instruction as we begin the school year. **I will collect all assignments the second day of school.**

### **Reading:**

You will be reading Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" this is a powerful piece that showcases rhetoric. Be sure to obtain a copy when you receive your assignment. If you misplace your text you can access a copy online: <http://www.uscrossier.org/pullias/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/king.pdf>

### **Collaboration:**

Collaborating is an important part of education. If you can, please visit Edmodo.com, create an account and join our class group using the following code: **aksszd**. This is a great way to ask me questions and access resources I will be posting to guide you through your assignments. If your parents/guardians are hesitant about the site, they can create an account and follow along with us.

## **ASSIGNMENT:**

### **Critical Reading Strategies:**

First, you will need to use critical reading strategies to isolate essential information within Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail". This will require you to **mark the text**: circle key words and underline claims that are relevant to Martin Luther King Jr.'s purpose. Once you have marked the text, you will then need to **chart the text**—remember, you create a t-chart and summarize what the author is saying on the left and evaluate what the author is "doing" on the right—be sure to use a participle(-ing verb) to begin each response.

### **Inquiry/Organization--Dialectical Journal:**

Once you have completed these steps, you will then create a dialectical journal. The term "Dialectic" means "the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer." By now you understand the importance of inquiry and critical reading strategies. This is another strategy meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read. Use your notebook to incorporate your personal responses to the texts. You will find that it is a useful way to process what you're reading, prepare yourself for future group discussions, and gather textual evidence for your attached essay assignment.

**You will need to complete at least ten entries.**

### **Procedure for dialectical journal:**

1.) Purchase a dedicated spiral notebook and draw a line down the center of each page in the notebook. (You may opt to fold the pages instead.)

2.) Read the text (you may do this as you are marking/charting the text) and whenever you encounter something of interest (such as rhetoric, tone, syntax, and so on), quote the text in the **LEFT HAND COLUMN** making sure that you include the page and paragraph numbers.

3.) In the **RIGHT HAND COLUMN** you will respond in two ways: **A.) Write your observations about the text** you have quoted in the left-hand column. This is where you need to interact, in detail, with the text. Make sure that your observations are thorough, insightful, and relevant to the purpose of the text. These are some questions you may use to guide your responses: What is happening? Why is this significant? How does it contribute to the text? **B.)** Once you have provided a response, **create an essential question that aligns with the cited text.** This should be a level 2 or 3 question that reflects the purpose of the excerpt.

**Example of Dialectical Journal**

<p>1. "The yellow marks in my college textbooks...did not help me very much." (Page 1/Paragraph 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can relate since I often used to highlight what I thought was important and then end up with most of the page highlighted</li> <li>- How do you think the author improved his reading comprehension skills?</li> </ul>
<p>2. "Annotations do make me read a lot slower and I wish I didn't have to do them. It is so much harder to fake read if you have to annotate like we have to do now. So now I actually read, because it's too hard to fake annotate." (Page2/Paragraph 10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is harder to fake annotate--it almost takes more time. People are prone to find the easy way to do something. Since there's really no easy way to annotate--fake or real--it makes sense to really read and think about the texts.</li> <li>- What are the benefits of annotating a text? In the long run, does it really take longer?</li> </ul>

**Writing assignment:**

**Prompt:** After reading Martin Luther King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” examine the development of King’s argument. Specifically, analyze the structure and language in his text and explain how he uses rhetorical devices (logos, ethos, pathos, tone, diction, analogy, etc.) to shape and build his argument for his intended audience. Cite evidence from the text to illustrate and clarify your analysis. This should be at least 5 paragraphs, but use your judgment and respond in a way that fulfills the prompt.

- Introduce your topic clearly and include a coherent thesis statement.
- Include relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotes, or other information so your writing is thoroughly developed.
- Use appropriate transitions.
- Use precise language and vocabulary in your analysis.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding section that follows from and supports your explanation.
- Use proper grammar and conventions of writing.