



2019-2020 English 12/ACP W131 Summer Reading

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Each English 12 or ACP W131 student should read the texts below & complete the assignment by the first day of school.

***Kindred* by Octavia Butler**

***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance**

In addition to reading and annotating both texts, your summer reading assignment includes two additional writing tasks. These writing tasks will give you a good idea of the kind of writing you will be doing in your senior English class and will provide your teacher with a profile of you as a writer and thinker.

1. Summary

Compose a one-page summary for each of the two readings (two total summaries). Focus on the key people, settings, plot, and main idea/theme. When all else fails, think who, what, where, when, why, and how.

2. Synthesis Essay

Compose a two- to three-page essay that does the following:

- Presents a claim that compares and contrasts both texts based on a commonly addressed topic, motif, or symbol. This claim should be clearly stated in the first paragraph of the essay.
- Develops the comparison over at least three thorough body paragraphs that incorporate textual evidence from both texts and transitions seamlessly between them.
- Provides a final synthesis paragraph that discusses the significance of the comparisons you made in the paper. Consider questions such as: How do the differences in how each text treats that certain topic speak to broader social, cultural, or historical issues? What do the characters in each text ultimately learn, and what are we meant to take away from the two texts?

Format and Delivery:

- All synthesis essays must be TYPED and formatted according to MLA specifications.
 - Times New Roman
 - 12 pt font
 - 1 inch margins
 - Header and title
 - Works cited page with MLA entries for both texts
- Essays must be printed out and handed in on the first day of class.
- Bring BOTH texts on the first day of class.