

# Summer Assignment 2021

## Introduction

Your summer assignment is a chance for you to read, explore ideas, and write in response to what you are reading and thinking. **The assignment has four parts** and all work is due the first week of school.

## Part I -- Organizing

**Text --** [How I Take Notes](#) and/or [10 Note-Taking Tips](#)

After watching StudyTee's notes system, we want you to think about how you can benefit from this organization method that will be used for this summer and throughout the year.

**Assignment --** Choose one of the following options:

1. **Get a notebook** of your choice with the style of paper that you prefer (lined, graph, blank, bullet point, etc.).
2. **Create an area on your iPad, computer, or other electronic device** where you will be taking notes for this class.

If you are not sure which option to choose, consider reading this: <https://effectiviology.com/handwriting-vs-typing-how-to-take-notes/>

We will use this to create and keep notes for the major works that we study over the course of the year, for keeping your writing samples (essays, thesis statements, reflections, etc.), and keeping your multiple choice scores, analysis, and reflections, so find a method that you really like and that you will be comfortable with all year.

**Why it is important --** The process of learning something often starts out feeling disorganized and unwieldy. Consolidation helps organize and solidify learning. This notebook/file will serve as a means to consolidate what you have learned throughout the year, allowing you to retrieve the significant progress we make. Make it your own.

## Part II -- Preparing

### **Text – *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Foster & – Literary Terms List**

A common understanding of basic literary terminology is necessary for discussion and analysis in this class. Review the list of Literary Terms and **study the words that you are not familiar with using in writing and analysis**. You are expected to use this language when completing your assignment this summer and you will be assessed on this list at the beginning of the school year.

As an introduction to your study of AP Literature, you will be reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. This book will enhance your understanding of the summer reading text and help guide your analysis of texts over the course of the year.

### **Assignment –**

Study the Literary Terms list and **take notes (wherever you keep notes) on each chapter of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*** by Thomas C. Foster in preparation for your analysis of the summer reading book in September.

**Why it is important --** We want you to use your notes to enrich your personal language, background knowledge, and vocabulary. For that to happen, a basis of literary analysis will help you engage with other texts over the course of the year. We will be referencing Foster's text all year and using these literary terms in our analysis of poetry and prose, so these notes should be easily accessible.

## Part III -- Seeing

### Text -- [The Nerdwriter Analyzes Edward Hopper's "Nighthawks"](#)

Evan Puschak has his own YouTube channel (NerdWriter) in which he offers video essays. These essays that range from art, to film, to politics, to literature. He is thoughtful, well-researched, and has a keen sense of timing and audience awareness. In this video essay he analyzes one of the iconic 20th century American paintings, "Nighthawks." Pay attention to not only **what he sees**, but also notice the **biographical** and **historical context** he weaves into his analysis using both images and words to teach you about the painting.

### Assignment –

Choose a work of art that has meaning to you. It can be a work of literature. It can be a painting. It can be a song. It can be any creative endeavor that has some fascinating artistry. Next, wherever you keep notes, **write two pages analyzing that work of art on a similar level to Evan Puschak (the Nerdwriter)**. If you look at his show notes on the YouTube page for the "Nighthawks" video essay, he has done a fair amount of **research**. We want you to do the same. Find an organized way to **explain its artistic merit and value**. Don't just provide a summary of what it is, analyze how it operates and why it is important.

**Why it is important --** We want you to use your notes to enrich your personal language, background knowledge, and vocabulary. For that to happen, these notes should be so much more sophisticated than a summary. **They should reveal the complexity of the work of art**. You have to articulate not only what it means to you, you should also have a broader appreciation for the artist, the cultural and historical context in which it was created, and how the work has transcended time and remain relevant. **You will be presenting this material at the start of the year.**

## Part IV -- Reading

**Text – The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**

### **Assignment –**

Read the text. Then, wherever you keep notes, **create 3 pages of notes about your book**. How you organize those three pages is up to you, but there needs to be **something that ties those notes together**. We know that this is vague and undefined, but look at it another way. We are empowering you to do what you feel is right. You have the freedom to do what you want. You can create whatever you want. All we're asking you to do is create three interesting pages of notes from your reading experience. When there are little to no rules, the possibilities are endless.

Consider tracking some aspect of the novel throughout the text. Why does it mean? Why do you find it interesting? What does it add to your understanding of the work?

**Why it is important --** A mature thinker chooses and develops their own criteria in order to evaluate the quality of texts. We respect your ability to make **connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, and/or eras** and when you have control over how you do that, you often exceed our expectations. **We will be discussing your notes in class before we begin formal analysis of the novel. You will be writing an essay on this novel when you return to school**, so the notes you take will help to prepare you for that assignment.