

## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2019-2020

Understanding Ourselves Through The Stories We Tell:  
Reading and Writing Our Personal Identities



You are about to embark upon your final year of your high school career—you are on the brink of adulthood. In an effort to prepare you to enter the workforce and the college campus of your choice, we are going to begin our year by asking you to reflect on who you are, how you got here, and where you want to be. This will set the foundation for the rest of our year, in which we will later examine our place in our larger communities, society, and globalized world.

But first: Who are you, and how did you become this person? What were your most formative experiences, and how did these shape your way of seeing and being in the world? To get you thinking, please complete the reading and writing components of the assignment below.

### Part I: READING AND ANALYZING A COMING-OF-AGE NOVEL

A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Please **select and read one** of the following bildungsroman novels:

*Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya  
*The Kite Runner* -or- *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini  
*The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri  
*The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison  
*The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger  
*The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

Using the novel that you read, select **FIVE** pivotal moments in the protagonist's coming-of-age and, for each, complete a Say-Mean-Matter (SMM) chart in which you explain how that moment contributes to the character's overall psychological or moral development.

*Psychological* development refers specifically to the progression of a character's motives, attitudes, likes, and dislikes, whereas *moral* development includes the character's sense of right and wrong and elements that lead to the choices and decisions the character ultimately makes. Note: to earn full credit on this portion of the assignment, your SMMs must include analyses of moments that occur at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the novel.

Once you've finished reading and analyzing the text, write **ONE** well-developed and clearly organized C.E.I. paragraph that responds to the following prompt:

Based on your understanding of the protagonist's overall development, which of the five moments that you identified had the **greatest impact** on their moral or psychological development? Defend your position with evidence quoted directly from the text.

Resources on how to complete a Say-Mean-Matter and C.C.E.I. paragraph can be found on Mrs. Pariser's website.

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## **Part 2: WRITING YOUR COLLEGE PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

We will begin working at the very start of the semester on your personal statements for your college applications. Please use this summer to draft your answers to **ALL EIGHT** of the following University of California Personal Insight Questions:

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?

Each response should be no more than 350 words. Put a total word count at the end of each paragraph. Resources on planning and drafting these personal responses, as well as some tips from college admissions experts, can be found on my website.

### **SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

Both components of the writing assignment—your C.C.E.I. paragraph on the bildungsroman novel and your UCPIQ's—should be typed and properly formatted using MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition, and submitted by **11:59pm on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>** (nope, that's not a typo!) **on Turnitin.com**.

Please enroll in our course using the information below:

Class ID: 21323270

Enrollment key: CPDAmagnet

***\*\*Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.\*\****

Questions or concerns? Feel free to email me over the break!  
Happy Reading! ☺

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### ***\*An important note about AP Lit!!***

*This assignment is superseded by the A.P. Lit assignment;  
if you are enrolled in A.P. Literature, please complete that assignment instead of this one.*