

May, 2009

Dear Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grader,

Welcome to English 9 at Providence High School. In order to help prepare you for successful participation and learning in our English class this year, you will fulfill a summer reading requirement that is outlined below. I have also included models and specific instructions to help guide you through this summer's reading assignment.

You will read TWO types of literature this summer for English class. Each type of literature will have a specific assignment to accompany the reading.

ASSIGNMENT #1 (fiction).....THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA by Ernest Hemingway  
You should purchase a copy of this book from any bookstore so that you may take notes within the book, if necessary and to bring with you to class when school begins.  
As you read this novel, you will maintain a Character Response Journal to demonstrate your understanding of the main characters' development, motivation, interaction, and role in the novel. The attached model of this Response Journal will give specific information regarding its format and ingredients.

ASSIGNMENT #2 (non-fiction).....News magazine articles of state, national, and international coverage that are published on a weekly, bi-weekly, and/or monthly basis (NEWSWEEK, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, TIME, NEW YORKER, etc.)  
Select and read 6 of these magazine articles and write responses to each article. Your response writings should demonstrate a variety of HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS such as those listed on the attached model for this assignment.

Both these assignments may be maintained in a divided spiral or small folder that divides into these two sections. Make your work neat, legible, and thorough. Both these activities are designed to demonstrate your insight, critical and interpretive reading skills, and level of self-expression. Other class activities for the first weeks of class will be based on this Summer Reading Activity and will also allow you to demonstrate those same skills.

You have two and one-half months to complete these activities, and they will be due within the first week of class. Again, welcome to ninth grade English! I look forward to an exciting and promising year of discovery and academic growth for you and your classmates.

Sincerely,

Emily Flores  
Providence High School  
English Dept.