John S. Burke Catholic High School
2019 Summer Reading
English 11 Assignment

This must be completed and submitted to your English teacher during the first week of school.

It’s that time of year again: time for play, time for relaxation, and time for enjoyment. While summer vacation is a time for all of these things, it is also important that you keep your skills sharp, so that all you learned throughout the previous year does not go to waste. Therefore, the English Department has put together the following assignment to be completed over the summer. The text chosen will serve as an introduction for much of what you will learn throughout the upcoming school year by introducing the thematic study of the year ahead and reinforcing skills previously learned in your English classes. The focus of the course this year is “Argument: Taking a Stand” with emphasis on the use of persuasion. Enjoy your break, and happy reading!

We have two assignments to read over the summer that will begin our discussion on argument.

We have two books to read over the summer that will begin our discussion on taking a stand.

Read *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka

Read “Letter From Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King Jr.
You can download it at the following: [https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf](https://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf)

Assignments are due on the first full day of school. An essay/test will be given the first week of school.

For *I Will Always Write Back: One Letter Changed Two Lives* and for “Letter From Birmingham”, you are to complete a one pager that discusses a theme related to the readings. Suggestions include the power of words, one person can make a difference, taking a stand for beliefs, etc.
One-Pager Response

Assignment:
You will produce a one-pager based on your both of your readings. A one-pager is a single-page response to your reading. It is a way to communicate your understanding of the material in a unique way. A one-pager allows you to be creative and experimental. It gives you the opportunity to respond to your reading imaginatively and honestly.

Directions: Include all of the following activities on your one-pager:
- Titles and Authors – make it obvious on the page so it is clear what your one pager is about.
- Six notable quotes or phrases that jump out at you. Write them down anywhere on your page. Use different colors or writing styles to make them stand out. These should be from throughout the book.
- Four images that create a “visual focus” on your one-pager. Your pictures should represent what you have visually in mind about the reading. These images could be a symbolic representation of the theme or main idea of your reading. Consider incorporating some of the symbols you have found in the play.
- A personal statement about what you have read. What does the reading mean to you? What is your opinion on the readings, final thought, big question, or personal connection?
- One high level question that can be answered after - Answer the question next to where you wrote the question
- A theme statement: what is the theme of the reading?****
  - Be creative. Make your one-pager colorful and interesting to look at. Everything on the page should communicate your understanding and interpretation of the reading. NO WHITE SPACE. Fill the entire page.
  ****Use the following format to develop a theme statement.
  - Begin with an -ing verb: Taking
  - Followed by an abstract term: control of life
  - Use "may lead to" or "may result in": may lead to
  - Add another abstract term: independence and invincibility
  - Theme: Taking control of life may lead to a feeling of independence and invincibility.

On the back of the one pager, write a 10-15 sentence paragraph that discusses one of the themes you displayed in your one pager. Include a two quotes in your paragraph (one from each of the readings).
Activity on A Letter from Birmingham Jail: Reading Response:
Defend or Challenge (Argument)

Instructions: Criticize or defend Wells’ conclusion to the Martian invasion in a 300-400 word response. Use 2 quotes from the text as support. Follow the paragraph pattern you have been given below. Quotes should be limited to 1 sentence or less (no more). Try the following – Fill in the template below with your argument and the counter argument. There is an example for you.

The general argument made by Martin Luther King Jr in his work “A Letter From Birmingham Jail” is that __________________________________________.
More specifically, king argues that __________________________________________.
He writes, “ ______________________________________” ( ). In this statement, he is suggesting that _______________________________. His belief is _______________________________________________________. In my view, King is (right or wrong – choose one) because _______________________________________. More specifically, I believe that _________________________________. For example, “ ___________________________” ( )
This means _______________________________. Although King might object that ____________________________, I maintain that ___________________________. Therefore, I conclude that ___________________________.

Example: The general argument made by William Golding in his work The Lord of the Flies is that man is inherently savage beneath the surface. More specifically, Golding uses the character of Simon to point out the fact that it is not external forces we need to fear but each other and the savagery held within. Golding writes, “What I mean is….maybe it’s only us” (89). In this statement by Simon, Golding is suggesting that the monster they need to be afraid of is themselves. His belief is that mankind will harm each other more than any other beast. In my view, Golding is wrong about humanity because despite all the evil that surrounds man both on the fictional island of The Lord of the Flies and the real world, there are many acts of goodness that outweigh the bad. For example, when at the end of the novel, “Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise, friend called Piggy,” Ralph showed his true heart (Golding 202). Although Golding might object that two boys are dead and most of the boys participated in violent, savage acts, I maintain that the goodness of humanity in acts such as Simon’s sacrifice and Ralph’s compassion outweigh the evil acts of humanity. Therefore, I conclude that Golding is wrong and that humanity is generally good and if and when it falls to temptation and evil, man will redeem himself and return to his good nature.