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

Common Reads:
Read *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka
You can purchase the book on amazon at https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0316241334/ref=ox_sc_pi_pdp_detail?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER.

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

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 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 ___________________________________________. 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 ad 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.

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 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 H.G. Wells in his work The War of the Worlds is that ___________________________________________.

More specifically, Wells argues that _________________________________________________. He writes, “ ________________________________________” (      ). In this statement, he is suggesting that ___________________________________________. In my view, Wells is (right or wrong – choose one) because ___________________________________________. More specifically, I believe that ___________________________________________. For example, “ ________________________________________” (      ). This means ___________________________________________. Although Wells might object that ___________________________________________, I maintain that ___________________________________________. Therefore, I conclude that ___________________________________________.

Example: The general argument made by Robert Chambers in his work The Incubus is that the supernatural is real. More specifically, Chambers uses the character of the incubus to argue that the supernatural exists. He writes, “I believe that the incubus is real” (Chambers 25). In this statement, he is suggesting that the supernatural is real. In my view, Chambers is (right or wrong – choose one) because ___________________________________________. More specifically, I believe that ___________________________________________. For example, “ ________________________________________” (Chambers 25). This means ___________________________________________. Although Chambers 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 ad 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.
11AP - This is the second part of your summer work.

The Second Assignment: Columnist Precis
As a means of keeping abreast of public discourse issues, you are required to investigate three different articles by national columnists or opinion writers. You must collect three articles about three different news items by three different columnists or opinion writers. The columns (or opinion pieces) may not be published in the same week, must be from major newspapers like The Washington Post or the New York Times or from national online columns. Finally each piece must be at least 600 words.

- Your written responses to Parts II & III of this project must be typed; you will submit these sections upon your return to school.
- Please note that you may not use entertainment or sports stories for this assignment.
- Please find on the second page of this handout vetted links to online newspapers and columns.

Part I. Annotation (underlining important ideas and interesting language and making notes about what you underline in the margins) [The article must be annotated – highlighted, underlined, notes in the margins] You will turn in 3 of these.

Each article must be annotated for the following: (This is done on the article)
• Speaker's tone and possible tone shifts
• Rhetorical strategies (figurative language, allusions, expert testimony, interesting sentence structure, irony, satire, sarcasm etc.)
• Rhetorical appeals (Is the writer appealing to pathos, ethos and/or logos?)

Mark places in the text that evoke a reaction from you, be it laughter, anger, or confusion. Use the questions below to help you annotate what is important as you read each text. You do not need to answer them specifically; only use them to guide your annotation. (Do Not Answer in paragraphs or on separate paper – just annotate)

• How does s/he open the column?
• How does s/he close the column?
• How soon does s/he announce the thesis?
• How does s/he organize? What are the parts or sections of the column?
• How much is based on observation? Personal experience? Interviews? Fact?
• What sort of diction characterizes the columnist?
• What sort of syntax (sentence structure) characterizes the columnist?
• What audience does s/he assume? How do you know?
• What unstated assumptions (warrants - enthymemes) does the columnist make?

Part II. Writing a Précis/Response -- One Paragraph Précis for Each Article (Total of 3)

Directions: A précis reveals your understanding of the arguments and points authors make in a specific piece. When writing your response, you will be objectively (accurately) summarizing the article in your own words. Compose part one using the four sentences described below. Use this exact format for each sentence. You should only have four sentences for this part. See the sample précis on the second page of this handout.

Note: Before you begin writing your précis, read the column a number of times to make sure you completely understand the author's rhetorical situation.

Example Précis
• The first sentence identifies the essay's author and title, provides the article's date in parentheses, uses some form of the verb "says" (claims, asserts, suggests, argues) followed by "that," and the essay's thesis (paraphrased or quoted).

Example: In his "In Defense of Prejudice" (1995), Jonathan Rauch argues that prejudice in society should not be eliminated.

• The second sentence describes the author's support for the thesis, usually in chronological order.

Example: Rauch supports his position by providing anecdotal and historical evidence culled from segments of society which illustrates the futility and harm associated with attempts to eliminate prejudice.

• The third sentence analyzes the author's purpose using an "in order to" statement.

Example: Rauch hopes to shift the paradigm away from absolutism, the idea of punitive action against racism and prejudice, in order to move society toward rejection, the idea of societal pressure when grappling with racist and prejudicial attitudes.

• The fourth sentence describes the essay's intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes with the audience.

Example: The author uses an erudite, yet defensive, tone indicating that he primarily addresses a rather liberal intellectual audience.

Part III. Personal Reflection Paragraph / 200-250 words each – One Entry for Each Article (Total of 3)

Use the questions below to guide your thinking when composing your personal reflection regarding the article:

- What questions, objections or enlightenment has the column generated?
- What stylistic strategies and appeals are used?
- What other reactions do you have to the column?
- What are your thoughts on the validity of the arguments?

Links to Online Newspapers and Columns
1. http://blueagle.com/index.html -- (Has articles from Conservatives and Liberals)
   (New York Times has more of liberal leanings )


Adapted from: Rolf M. Gunnar
http://www.mrgunnar.net/ap.cfm?subpage=348267

Total of 6 paragraphs and 3 articles turned in.