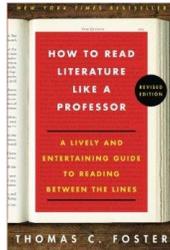


Assignment Overview

- **Read and take notes on** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Revised Edition (2014) by Thomas C. Foster.
- **Read and annotate** a book/play of your choice from the list of AP titles below.
- **Write** a first draft of your college essay and bring that draft to class on the **FIRST** day of school (September 4, 2018).

Assignment Details

1. All students **MUST** start by reading *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Revised Edition (2014) by Thomas C. Foster.



2. As you read, take notes on the content of each chapter. These notes will be invaluable to you as we read and analyze literature during the year. ****You will be allowed to use these notes on your written assessment for this book.****

3. Read *at least* one of the titles from the list below.

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood
- *Candide* by Voltaire
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
- *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Obasan* by Joy Kogawa
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

****It is highly recommended that you annotate the text in some way in order to help you actively engage with the text. Try applying the concepts from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* to your analysis of the text. Plan to bring these annotations to class. *****You will be allowed to consult these annotations (notes) on your written assessment for this book.*******

5. **THE COLLEGE ESSAY!**

Over the summer, take time to research colleges/universities and make a list of your top choices. Many of these institutions will use The Common Application or The Coalition Application. The rest of this packet contains essay prompts for The Common App, UMD College Park (which uses The Coalition App), Towson University, and University of Chicago (2017-18 prompts).

- Choose at least one essay prompt (either a prompt that is provided below or another prompt provided by a college/university that you are considering).
- Write a full length essay that responds to the prompt you have chosen.
- Remember to incorporate descriptive language, unique details about yourself, and your own VOICE.
- Bring a hard copy of this essay with you to class on the FIRST day of school (September 4, 2018).
- We will be working with these essays in class and at home during the first quarter of the school year. *****This essay will also be a major first quarter grade.***

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**2018-2019 Common Application Essay Prompts – word limit 650**

<http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/2018-2019-common-application-essay-prompts>

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

**2018-2019 University of Maryland, College Park Essay Prompts**

<https://www.admissions.umd.edu/apply/essay.php>  
<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays.html>

**Please answer one of the following essay questions in your application.** Make sure to include the question itself at the start of your essay. Your essay should be no more than 550 words; the question will not be included in the essay total word count.

1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

2. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
3. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
4. What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
5. Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

### **2018-2019 Towson University Essay Prompt**

In 300 words or less, please share something about yourself that we do not already know and how that can positively impact the Towson University community.

**\*\*\*University of Chicago 2017-2018 Essay Prompts\*\*\* (NOTE: These are from last year!)**

<https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/apply/essay-questions>

#### **Question 1 (Required):**

How does the University of Chicago, as you know it now, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community, and future? Please address with some specificity your own wishes and how they relate to UChicago.

#### **Question 2: Extended Essay (Required; Choose one)**

##### ***Essay Option 1***

“The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress.” —Joseph Joubert  
Sometimes, people talk a lot about popular subjects to assure ‘victory’ in conversation or understanding, and leave behind topics of less popularity, but great personal or intellectual importance. What do you think is important but under-discussed?

—Anonymous Suggestion

##### ***Essay Option 2***

Due to a series of clerical errors, there is exactly one typo (an extra letter, a removed letter, or an altered letter) in the name of every department at the University of Chicago. Oops! Describe your new intended major. Why are you interested in it and what courses or areas of focus within it might you want to explore? Potential options include Commuter Science, Bromance Languages and Literatures, Pundamentals: Issues and Texts, Ant History... a full list of unmodified majors ready for your editor's eye is available here.

—Inspired by Josh Kaufman, Class of 2018

##### ***Essay Option 3***

Earth. Fire. Wind. Water. Heart! Captain Planet supposes that the world is made up of these five elements. We're familiar with the previously-noted set and with actual elements like hydrogen, oxygen,

and carbon, but select and explain another small group of things (say, under five) that you believe compose our world.

—Inspired by Dani Plung, Class of 2017

***Essay Option 4***

The late New York Times photographer Bill Cunningham once said “Fashion is the armor to survive the reality of everyday life. I don’t think you could do away with it. It would be like doing away with civilization.” Tell us about your “armor.”

—Inspired by Adam Berger, Class of 2020

***Essay Option 5***

Fans of the movie Sharknado say that they enjoy it because “it’s so bad, it’s good.” Certain automobile owners prefer classic cars because they “have more character.” And recently, vinyl record sales have skyrocketed because it is perceived that they have a warmer, fuller sound. Discuss something that you love not in spite of but rather due to its quirks or imperfections.

—Inspired by Alex Serbanescu, Class of 2021

***Essay Option 6***

In the spirit of adventurous inquiry, pose your own question or choose one of our past prompts. Be original, creative, thought provoking. Draw on your best qualities as a writer, thinker, visionary, social critic, sage, citizen of the world, or future citizen of the University of Chicago; take a little risk, and have fun.