



First Essay!

The Prompt (question to be answered): *Should a high school assign required summer reading to ninth-grade students in a College Prep level course?*

Consider this topic, take a clear position on this issue and write **to persuade** your reader (me) to adopt your position. Consider the information found in the newspaper articles that we have read for class, as well as your own experiences.

Answer the prompt in a well-written essay that

- ❖ Clearly states your position in the thesis statement, which is followed by a preview of support.
- ❖ Includes specific facts, details, reasons, and examples to persuade your reader to agree with your point of view,
- ❖ Presents your ideas in a clear and logical order, including an introduction, body and conclusion,
- ❖ Uses a variety of words and well constructed sentences,
- ❖ Demonstrates correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization and usage.

Your essay plan/ outline is due _____. Type it following the Essay Plan Format attached. Before drafting the outline, be sure to read the SHHS Handbook 1-5, and Evergreen 246-8. You should use the following checklist to determine the sufficiency of your outline:

Thesis statement (also see “What Is a Thesis?” handout):

- Clear in its meaning
- One complete sentence
- An opinion, not a fact
- Unified and focused/ not overbroad, vague, or wishy-washy
- Not an announcement
- No “I think” or “I believe”

Each MSP:

- Clear
- Logically supports and relates to the thesis (generally should include the words “required summer reading”)
- Follows a logical order
- Is sufficiently supported by at least 2-3 relevant, persuasive arguments and/ or examples
- Expresses an idea that does not overlap with or repeat the MSP of another paragraph

The MSP’s put together with the Thesis:

- The MSP’s add up to proving all parts of the thesis
- The MSP’s don’t argue points that go beyond the thesis
- The MSP’s and thesis taken together make an insightful, persuasive argument that would move an open-minded reader to agree with the argument.

Instructions for Outline⇒**TYPE** out all bolded words and the answers that go in the blanks.

Name _____
Subject: **Required Summer Reading**
Audience: **academic/ formal**
Essay prompt (Circle KEY words and make sure they appear in thesis): _____

Essay Plan Format

Purpose (put in your own words): **to persuade my reader that** _____

Working Thesis (one sentence)

[⇒ Compare the thesis to the prompt. Does it clearly and unambiguously answer the prompt?]

MSP #1 The first argument why your thesis is true (full sentence / has the words *required summer reading*)

What **specific examples + reasons** will you use in this paragraph to explain and support this MSP? (Minimum is 2)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ask yourself: Have you supported your MSP fully? Does each point above fit under this MSP?

MSP #2 The second argument why your thesis is true (full sentence / has the words *required summer reading*)

What **specific examples + reasons** will you use in this paragraph to explain and support this MSP? (Minimum is 2)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ask yourself: Have you supported your MSP fully? Does each point above fit under this MSP?

MSP #3 The third argument why your thesis is true (full sentence / has the words *required summer reading*)

What **specific examples + reasons** will you use in this paragraph to explain and support this MSP? (Minimum is 2)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ask yourself: Have you supported your MSP fully? Does each point above fit under this MSP?

Conclusion:

Echo (don't repeat verbatim) thesis

Call to action