



## First Essay!

The Prompt (questions to be answered): *Should a high school assign required summer reading to ninth-grade students in a Honors level course? If so, should students be assigned the text(s) or should the students be allowed to choose the text(s)?*

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,
- ❖ 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 1-6, and Evergreen 246-8. You should use the following checklist to determine the sufficiency of your outline:

### **Thesis statement (also see page1-2 of SHHS Handbook):**

- 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 provide a framework for an insightful, persuasive argument that would move an open-minded reader to agree with the argument.