

Captain Shreve High School
English III - Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
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English III – AP Summer 2017 Assignments

This summer you will read 2 books and participate in the school-wide summer reading program. Consider this summer reading as preparation for an intense book club. Don't be afraid to enjoy these books. Our activities and discussions during the first few weeks of school will center around these texts and themes. The characters and people in these texts face struggles and conflicts that shape their identity. In their poems, fiction, personal essays, and memoirs, writers from *The Best Teen Writing of 2012* share experiences that shape identity. Historians, writers, and artists alike have set out to prove that Alexander Hamilton, Seabiscuit, and those men involved most closely in Seabiscuit's life are images of the American Dream. They rose from obscurity, battled adversity, and enjoyed epic triumphs. Americans can relate to these figures because, as Hillenbrand claims, *their story is our story*.

School Wide Summer Reading:

1. **School Wide Summer Reading:** Choose from the list of resources at CaptainShreve.com and learn about the life and works of Alexander Hamilton.

Print Reading:

1. Scholastic, *The Best Teen Writing of 2012*. Copies available on Amazon.com. (I have hard copies available for in-class use when you return to school) ☺ [Click here for a free digital copy.](#)
ISBN-10: 0545541689
ISBN-13: 978-0545541688
2. *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, by Laura Hillenbrand. You must have a hard copy of this book. It is available at Amazon.com and at the public library.

Can I read e-books? You will need hard copies of these books. See my previous notes about where to find books.

Due Dates: All assignments are due on the first day of school. Turn in hard copies and save electronic copies to submit on Turnitin.com.

Academic Honesty: These assignments must be completed independently, without consulting any other person, book, or source. Doing so will violate the academic honesty policy and you will receive a zero.

Assignment: *The Best Teen Writing of 2012*: [Click here for a free electronic copy.](#) Select 3 works that you like best from 3 different genres (poetry, fiction, nonfiction) from *The Best Teen Writing of 2012*. Write notes on stickies or notebook paper. Pick out the words and phrases that were particularly striking in each piece. Be prepared to explain what you like about these pieces.

Assignment: *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*

Your purpose for reading: This year we will study argument and rhetorical strategies. As you read Hillenbrand's text, consider the argument she is making. Ask yourself: What does she want us to understand about these people and events and their historical significance? Analyze the development of Hillenbrand's argument. In each chapter, consider the argument Hillenbrand is making and how this argument helps develop her argument in the book as a whole – that Seabiscuit and the men closest to him are American legends. They rose from obscurity, battled adversity, and enjoyed epic triumphs. Americans can relate to these stories because they embody the American dream that through hard work, anyone can rise to greatness.

On annotating the print text for reading and research: Write notes in your copy of the book. Be prepared for me to check your annotations. Use stickie notes for library books. Underlining and highlighting is meaningless without annotation. E-books are not permitted in class. They do not support the close reading strategies you need to develop for our course. Annotations include defining words you do not know, writing commentary or reactions of your own, noting the rhetorical purpose and argument of each chapter, and summarizing ideas at the end of a chapter.

Analyzing Argument: Type your responses to these items in MLA format. Include a works cited page. Cite evidence from the text in the form of short, pithy quotations. Cite this evidence using MLA format. Practice blending evidence with your own language. Responses for items 1-5 should be 3-5 sentences each.

1. In chapter 4, what kind of sources did Hillenbrand use? How does this help build credibility in her argument?
2. What is Hillenbrand's argument in chapter 5? How does this help develop her argument in her book as a whole? In other words, why is this chapter important?
3. What is Hillenbrand's argument in chapter 10? How does this help develop her argument in her book as a whole? In other words, why is this chapter important?
4. What does Hillenbrand reveal about the role of character in one's life?
5. How do you see your own life struggles reflected in the stories here?
6. Modeling: On page 70 (chapter 5), find the paragraph that begins, "A Thoroughbred racehorse is one of God's most impressive engines." Model this paragraph by imitating the author's grammatical structure. You must choose a subject and use the same types of sentences as the author. Write the same number of sentences.

Understanding Research: In the "Notes" section, Laura Hillenbrand explains how she researched the book and her abbreviations. What do these terms mean? Use complete sentences.

7. What does SB mean?
8. What does FD mean?
9. Use an online dictionary. What do the words "et al" mean?
10. Use an online dictionary. What does "Ibid" mean?

