

**Eleanor Roosevelt High School 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Assignment 2013**  
**English Literature**

Dear 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student:

Since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade you have been studying the heroic journey which describes the human experience. Implicit in this study is your awareness of your own transformation. Now that you are on the cusp of the formal transition from high school to the world beyond, it is an ideal time to contemplate how individual consciousness and one's sense of the world evolve. As you read the two assigned summer books, *White Noise* by Don DeLillo and *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich, think about your own educational and spiritual journey. Also, consider how class issues can define and determine this journey.

**The assignment— DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**Please bring in 5-8 pages of legible, handwritten notes on your summer reading in preparation for an analytic essay you will write during the first unit of the semester. Your notes should focus on the following information:**

1. The central characters' pivotal and key moments of experience.
2. The effects of economic realities and class structures
3. Reflections on the text's literary elements and poetic moments
4. Observations on the writers' individual style and rhetoric. Are there any aspects that seem unique?
5. When do the characters seem to be "the most human?" When do they seem "the least human?"
6. What points in the text relate to your own experience? How so?
7. What connections can you see between the texts?

Then, using your notes, complete the following:

- A. Outline a full response to #1 above. (This does NOT have to be in paragraph form. Bullets are fine.)
- B. From #2-7 above, select 3 and give a thorough 1-3 paragraph response. #6 is often a good choice.

Enjoy your reading, and have a great summer!