



Eleanor Roosevelt High School

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Dimitri Saliani, Principal www.erhsnyc.org

11th Grade American Literature Summer Assignment 2019-2020

As part of Eleanor Roosevelt High School's 11th grade English curriculum, you will be spending the year looking at what creates identity. We will discuss how our perceptions of ourselves and others are formed in conjunction with our rights as human beings. The focus of the individual vs. society will be prevalent throughout many of the texts this year.

Hence, this summer we are asking you to read an **AUTOBIOGRAPHY** or **MEMOIR** of your choosing. First, we have to answer the question *what is the difference between an autobiography and a memoir?* While both are written by the author and about the author, an autobiography is a chronological retelling of the writer's entire life, while a memoir tends to focus on one or more specific life-changing events of the author. With this in mind, it is time for you to think about who you are interested in learning more about. You may want to choose someone who is similar to you or someone who is vastly different.

Do some outside research about someone that interests you, and choose whomever most reflects your interests. Here is a link to help you get started <https://www.amazon.com/b?ie=UTF8&node=11021806011>

For Example:

Mr. Cacioppo will be reading *Heavy: A Memoir* by Kiese Laymon

Mrs. Duke will be reading *Boys in the Trees: A Memoir* by Carly Simon

Mrs. Strasser will be reading *Forward: A Memoir* by Abby Wambach

As you read, consider what this person has gone through. What is the author revealing? Hiding? How can you relate? How does this text connect with you as an individual? As a member of a particular group? We strongly encourage you to take note of at least three specific pieces of evidence or quotes you find interesting, moving or motivating. You will need to bring this, **and the book**, to class for the first couple of days. If you get the book from the library, remember to renew the book so you can have it in class.

Upon arrival to the 11th grade, on the first full day of school, **you will be writing a Text-Analysis Response to test your knowledge of your chosen text**. This will count as a **quiz** and will be your first form of assessment for the year, so take some time to think about what the author's purpose for writing this autobiography or memoir was as well as what literary techniques or writing strategies the author utilized.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mr. Cacioppo, Mrs. Duke & Mrs. Strasser