

Senior Summer Reading 2020

The main idea of this year's summer reading is "American Crime, Justice, and Journalism" and will explore the moral and ethical dilemmas of non-fiction writing, the power a single person has to change history, and the importance of asking questions.

Over the summer, leading into next fall, you will be completing four tasks as part of this work. They are detailed below, but do not need to be completed in any particular order (except for the last one which will happen in school next September):

Task 1: Read a work of non-fiction

Of course, no summer reading assignment would be complete without some READING. This year students will read one of the following books depending on your senior course assignment:

Honors: *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote

CP: *Iphigenia in Forest Hills: Anatomy of a Murder Trial* by Janet Malcolm

You can acquire these books as ebooks, in hard copy form from local bookstores or online, or you can go support your local library! You should take notes or annotations regardless of which book you choose, as these notes will come in handy later.

Task 2: Listen to *Serial* podcast

This year, we're adding a new element to summer reading: listening to a podcast. Podcasts are a great storytelling medium and *Serial* is one of the best. In it, host Sarah Koenig delves into a decades old murder to determine if justice was really served. This summer, you should listen to **Season 1 of *Serial***, which you can do on serialpodcast.org, [stitcher.com/podcast/this-american-life/serial](https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-american-life/serial), or through your podcast app on your phone. Start with **S01 Ep01: The Alibi** and listen from there. There are 12 episodes, each averaging around 45 minutes long, so they're great to listen to on your commute to your summer job or on your long summer road trip!

Task 3: Write journal entries

After each episode of *Serial*, you should write an informal **1-page response**. This journal can include your reactions, your responses, your questions, your concerns, your predictions, your feelings- basically anything you were thinking while listening. **You must complete a journal for at least 10 of the 12 episodes** and you should reference which episode the journal entry is responding to. These can be typed or hand-written and will be handed in as part of your summer reading grade.

Task 4: Participate in a Socratic seminar

The final part of your summer reading work will take place next September, when you will participate in a Socratic seminar style discussion to share your reactions, opinions, and questions that your work produced. You can use your notes, journal entries, and the “texts” themselves. This is your first major grade of the year, so come in ready to share your thoughts.

This is a great opportunity to explore the American justice system in a fresh way, and to think about these topics using some new materials. Have fun! I can’t wait to hear what you have been thinking about this summer.