

Summer Reading Assignment and Project –
Incoming 12th Graders – English IV Regular & Honors

(PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF TWO BOOKS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR YOUR SUMMER READING) THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

THE HANDMAID’S TALE, by Margaret Atwood
ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE by Anthony Doerr’s

1. Read and annotate Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* **OR** All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. Annotations should include observations about the following:

- plot elements (rising action, climax, characterization, setting, etc.)
- The author’s commentary, through his/her story, of real-life contemporary social issues
- unfamiliar or new vocabulary, OR interesting uses of vocabulary
- observations on the author’s use of language (diction, syntax, tone, etc.) and how these are effective in conveying theme(s)
- literary elements such as imagery, figurative language, irony, personification, symbolism, etc.

2. WRITING YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)

(NOTE: You might wish to view a few sample PSAs on YouTube before you begin.)

Margaret Atwood (*The Handmaid’s Tale*) writes dystopian fiction, a popular genre by which authors warn readers of the dangers of ignoring social phenomena that can eventually affect their lives in profound and often frightening ways. While Atwood’s world is fictional, she maintains that it is inspired by real issues she has observed throughout her life.

After reading and annotating the novel, think about the situations Atwood depicts. What problems or points of view might Atwood be warning readers about? What dangers are present in today’s world that might lead to some of the situations she depicts? As you think about this, be sure to consider your own knowledge of both history and current events.

Anthony Doerr’s (*All the Light We Cannot See*) imaginative and intricate novel was inspired by the horrors of World War II. The novel explores human nature and the contradictory power of technology. This is a novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. After reading and annotating the novel, think about the situations Doerr depicts. What problems or points of view might Doerr be warning readers about? What dangers are present in today’s world that might lead to some of the situations he depicts? As you think about this, be sure to consider your own knowledge of both history and current events. Once you have identified a problematic issue to comment on, WRITE the script for your PSA (Public Service Announcement), whereby you aim to shed light on the issue and convince your audience to do something to remedy it. For a creative twist on this assignment, you might choose instead to create a PSA from the point of view of one of the antagonists in *All the Light We Cannot See*. In it, you would aim to convince your audience that what is being done in the novel is actually beneficial to society.

Regardless of which option you choose, consider the following as you write your PSA:

- Who are you? What persona, or role, are you adopting?
- Who is your audience? How might they benefit from this information?
- What is your message? What do you want people to know/do as a result of viewing your PSA?
- How will you get your audience's attention? Some ways to do this include appealing to

REASON (LOGOS) with facts, statistics, or real-life examples or quotations from experts, all of which logically illustrate the problem and/or solution

your own CREDIBILITY and reliability as a speaker (ETHOS) with personal observations, experiences, or position as an expert on the matter

EMOTIONS (PATHOS), pointing out an injustice with emotional language, using humor, or pointing out the benefits of behaving a certain way.

- What is your "call to action"? PSAs always have a clear goal in mind, whether it is to get people to join an organization, donate to a cause, or participate in some sort of movement. What is yours? Be sure to reiterate it clearly at the closing of your PSA.
- Also be sure to include any key information (time, place, website, e-mail, phone number).
- A 30-second PSA will consist of approximately 60-75 words. Although your written script will not be collected, a well-written script will help make for a strong PSA.

3. FILMING YOUR PSA

- Once you are satisfied with your script, prepare to film the 30 second PSA.

YOUR PSA MUST NOT EXCEED 30 SECONDS!

- Get as creative as you wish with the setting, editing, costume, visuals, etc.
- To film, you may use your phone or any other technology you are comfortable with or have access to. Have a friend or relative film you.
- As you film, be sure to speak clearly and convincingly. Make sure the audience will be able to understand what you are saying.
- Be sure to save the file on your Dade Schools One Drive (available on your student portal), Google Drive, or USB drive.

IMPORTANT: Make sure you will have access to the video on the first week of school, as you will be required to share it with your class.

4. ONE-PARAGRAPH ANALYSIS:

After completing the PSA, write a typed, double-spaced, one-paragraph analysis of your finished video where you address the following:

- How did *The Handmaid's Tale* or *All The Light You Cannot See* inspire you to write this PSA? What parts of the novel made you think of this issue? Be specific! Why is this an important issue today?
- Explain some of the rhetorical choices you made in writing your PSA. For instance, did you choose a Particular word or phrase for emotional impact? Did you try to depict yourself as an authority on the matter? Did you employ rhetorical questions or statistics? How did these choices strengthen your PSA?
- Did you make any unique choices in staging or filming your PSA? Did you wear a costume or use visuals or props ? Did you act a certain way to make your point more salient? Was your setting meaningful in any way? Did you add music or other sound? How do you feel these choices helped you convey your message?

On the first week of school, you will share your PSA recording with your English class. You must also bring Your analysis essay and your annotated copy of *The Handmaid's Tale* or *All the Light You Cannot See* to your English class that first week.