

Creative Writing Summer Homework

Arts and Communication Capstone (Grade 12)

Students are expected to maintain a reading and writing practice throughout the summer. For Capstone, writers should keep a composition notebook, journal, or digital file with story drafts, character and dialogue ideas, bits of poems, plans for creative nonfiction writing and research, observations about politics, history, science and culture.

In preparation for the Capstone year, rising seniors should read and write this summer with the purpose of choosing an area of research to guide their Capstone work. This subject should be broad enough for exploration and specific enough for focus. I am happy to talk with students during the summer about Capstone ideas. Seniors are welcome to call or text me.

Writers should read extensively and critically consume a range of media. This should include a broad range of styles and lengths of text: articles, novels, poems, music lyrics, reviews, scripts, blogs, vlogs, etc. I recommend developing a podcast habit, watching foreign films, and deliberately exploring diverse subjects beyond the writer's usual preferences.

The writing journal should include the names of writers, titles of articles, books, poems, reviews, blogs, films, scripts; notes of favorite lines, interesting facts and events that can be researched and developed later, page numbers, links, and vocabulary. This document is a place of practice for record-keeping: ideas and sources should be traceable.

The journal should serve as a place of reader response, where writers analyze what they are noticing in the techniques, style choices, language, punctuation, layout on the page, etc. We will work with the academic and creative moves of analysis a lot next year, and practice will be helpful.

The summer homework will serve as a baseline assessment at the start of the year. I hope that it will be a resource full of valuable thoughts, titles, ideas, research plans and other rich jottings that serves writers throughout the school year.

