

Creative Writing Summer Homework

Techniques II (Grades 7 and 8)

Students are expected to maintain a reading and writing practice throughout the summer. For Techniques II, 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.

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 contain 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.

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.