

Senior Language and Composition Summer Reading

Welcome to Senior Language and Composition! This class is designed to expose students to literature that encourages them to think critically about their world. This course also builds college-level writing skills in preparation for postsecondary writing.

1. Read:

Read *Under the Overpass* by Mike Yankowski- **copies of this book may be obtained in my classroom before break, or purchased.** I greatly encourage you to read this book in hard copy. Studies show that students fair much better when reading print, as opposed to digital writing. Go outside, bring some lemonade with you, and sit in the shade!

2. Journal: You may handwrite or type your responses. There is no maximum or minimum for my seniors. I expect that you respond to each of these questions thoroughly and thoughtfully. This is to serve as a diagnostic for your writing as you enter my class- it will be graded more by effort than by grammar and conventions. You may use first person in your writing.

Entry One: Observe and Research. Think about a place where you have been this summer. It can be on a vacation, a camp, a sports trip, your summer job, or even in your own neighborhood. Did you see a homeless population in that city? What kind of services (soup kitchens, shelters, etc.) did you see for the homeless? If you couldn't tell (a lot of times these things are invisible,) look up what kinds of services can be accessed that area. Are there homeless shelters, group homes, financial services, churches, or other groups helping the homeless?

Entry Two: Reflect. Reflect on this quote from the Denver chapter:

“The best way to find out if we had second-class citizens and what their plight was, would be to become one of them.” John Howard Griffin, *Black Like Me*

Entry Three: Personal Connections. Write about one more or more of the following: What is your “take away” from this book? Did something surprise you? Was there a particular story that stuck out to you the most? Was your faith inspired or challenged by this book?

Entry One	_____/30
Entry Two	_____/30
Entry Three	_____/30
Answers are turned neatly handwritten or printed. Printed documents should follow MLA conventions.	_____/10
Total:	_____/100