

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. 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 lemonde with you, and sit in the shade!

2. Prompts: Respond to three prompts listed below. You may handwrite or type your responses. You may use first person voice if you choose.

Prompt One: Observe and Research. Think about where you have seen the homeless in your own life. It could have been on vacation, serving with your church or school, a sports trip, your summer job, or even in your own neighborhood. What kind of services (soup kitchens, shelters, etc.) have you seen for the homeless? Because some of these services are invisible, look up what kinds of services can be accessed for the homeless in your own town or in Metro Detroit. Are there homeless shelters, group homes, financial services, churches, or other groups helping the homeless? Please find two sources and properly cite in MLA format.

Prompt 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*

Prompt 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? Please use specific details from the book, with quotes or summarized citations as needed.

Works Cited: Please create an MLA works cited page that includes an entry for your book, and any sources you used for Entry One.

What skills am I assessing? I am looking to see if you can:

- Make connections between a nonfiction text and your life.
- Use research skills to find relevant information and present that information effectively in writing.
- Write reflectively using a prompt.
- Identify the most important elements of a plot in a way that doesn't simply summarize the text.
- Create proper MLA citations and a proper MLA works cited page.
- Write with proper grammar and syntax.

Rubric: Have you answered all part of the prompt, with attention to the skills assessment list above?

Entry One	_____/30
Entry Two	_____/30
Entry Three	_____/30
MLA Works Cited.	_____/10
Total:	_____/100

COVID-19 Note: This assignment will be due the first day of class, with 10% off for each day late, per PCA guidelines. Due to the uncertainty created by COVID-19, we will not be spending time in class on this book when we get back to school. Rather, we will be diving straight into new content.

If you have any questions about the text or the assignment, do not hesitate to reach out. I will be checking my email during the summer.

I look forward to an exceptional year of learning!

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