

OAKBROOK 2020 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT: Rising Sophomores (10th) in English II

Read the *unabridged* version of the assigned text below and respond to the prompt in a well-developed essay. Do not consult secondary sources or websites*. Bring your copy of the book and your essay on the first full day of class. The text should be purchased so you can annotate it thoroughly. Annotation** will count as a first term quiz grade.

(In the advent of online instruction to start the school year, directions for submission of summer work will be communicated to students and parents.)

English II CP and Honors: *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry

Hansberry prefaces her play with a poem by Langston Hughes. How does the play illustrate the theme of the poem? In what way is the concept of the dream referred to in the poem central to the play, and how are the characters and their circumstances impacted by the pursuit of this dream?

Develop your thesis in response to these questions, and then defend your response in a well-developed essay of at least two full typed pages in MLA format. Use direct quotations to support your points and include a works cited page.

Basic requirements:

12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, stapled, **no extra spacing**.

MLA format (correct heading and header numbered after first page)

Use specific quotations from the text (parenthetical citations) and document correctly; see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> or Ms. Autenzio's colorful handouts for MLA Handbook 8th edition guidelines. Include a works cited page that lists your edition of the text.

***Plagiarism statement:** Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying and pasting passages from the Internet and using them in your paper, or paraphrasing secondary sources without proper citation. Students who plagiarize on this assignment will receive a grade of zero with no possibility of revision. Consult the MLA Handbook, 7th or 8th edition, for details on avoiding plagiarism, or visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/> and available links.

****Annotation:** In writing, comment on the significance of passages in the text while you read. Write notes in the margins of the book about character, symbolism, theme, tone or any other aspects of the text you find significant.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea(s) discussed in your paper.**
Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.

(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem “Thanatopsis.” “The last bitter hour.” This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In “Thanatopsis,” William Cullen Bryant explores the “last bitter hour” (9), that hour of death which comes to all people.

4. When using direct quotations, cite the page number in parentheses after the quotation.

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie’s life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like “a rut in the road” (72); Janie has no hope for the future.

5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.

6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

7. Do not use contractions.

8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, etc.).

9. Your essay must be in MLA format, double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins.

10. Include name, date, and period in the upper left corner of your paper. Number all pages after the first page.

