



Naperville North High School

Honors Senior Rhetoric & Blended Honors Senior Rhetoric

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Honors Senior Rhetoric, future students! We are very excited to meet you and begin our exploration of writing with style, sophistication, and authority. To that end, we would like you to complete the following readings over the summer so we can be prepared to discuss and assess in August.

<u>"Ghosts"</u> by Vauhini Vara	<u>"Confessions of a Shusher"</u> by Phillip Lopate	<u>"Predictable Crises of Adulthood"</u> by Gail Sheehy
<u>"Seeing"</u> by Annie Dillard	<u>"Irreconcilable Dissonance"</u> by Brian Doyle	<u>"If Black English Isn't a Language, Then Tell Me What Is?"</u> by James Baldwin
<u>"Coming into Language"</u> by Jimmy Santiago Baca	<u>Book Two: India</u> by Elizabeth Gilbert	

Annotation is simply noting words on the page that strike you, phrases that confuse or thrill you, or places where you want to talk back to the speaker or [author]. Your goal is to record ideas and impressions for future analysis. Why bother to do this? Here's what well-known scholar and avid reader Mortimer Adler says in *How to Read a Book*:

Why is marking up a [text] indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked [text] is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thought you had, or the thoughts the author expressed.

So whether you use sticky notes, highlight passages, or write comments directly in the margins, annotation helps you become a better reader. There are no hard-and-fast rules for annotating properly, but the following approach is a good way to get started. As an alternative, you may take notes in a notebook. (If you choose to take notes in a notebook, we recommend that you include page numbers and direct quotations so that you may better recall and understand why you took them.)

Be prepared for discussion and assessment in August.

We are looking forward to a great 2025-2026 school year! Have a fantastic summer!

Contact us with any questions:

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