

New Albany High School
Summer Reading 2017-2018
12th Grade SREB English

This upcoming course will teach you strategies for reading and truly understanding specific kinds of complex texts in all subjects — reading a biology textbook, for example, is different than reading short stories or history research articles. You will learn to develop and defend ideas from the text and write about them in different college-level formats. Our reading will focus not only on traditional types of fiction, but also on short and extended non-fiction texts.

These tasks will focus on events and texts surrounding September 11, 2001, known hereafter as 9/11. It is important to follow these directions in order to fully understand and correctly complete the assignments.

Task 1: Choose **five** of the eight questions below. Answer each in a well-developed **paragraph**. The questions refer to the texts that begin after Task 3.

1. Closely examine the time line of September 11, 2001. What strikes you as the most surprising aspect of these twelve hours? Why?
2. President Bush first addressed the nation from a Florida Elementary school immediately following the first two plane crashes. The speech from Barksdale Air Force Base was delivered at 1:04 P.M. Since then, among the other events listed on the time line, the towers had collapsed, killing hundreds. Considering the timing of this second speech, what would you say is Bush's intention? What message is he trying to convey to the American people? Note specific uses of diction in your answer.
3. President Bush's second speech in this collection is actually his fourth in less than forty-eight hours following the 9/11 attacks. Note places in which he makes use of repetition. What is the effect of repeating these words and/or phrases?
4. Susan Sontag, in the first paragraph of her editorial, takes issue with President Bush's use of the word *cowardly* in the "Barksdale" speech and his implication of cowardly behavior in the "Presidential Address" speech. What is her argument?
5. Sontag ends her editorial by the concession that America is, indeed, strong. "But," she says, "that's not all America has to be." What else does she imply that America—and Americans—must be?
6. Melissa Byles openly criticizes Sontag for her editorial. Summarize the points with which she disagrees with Sontag's discussion.
7. "Talking to Your Child . . ." is a satire, not meant to be taken seriously. What appeal might this article have had so soon after the 9/11 attacks? Is it funny? Offensive? Do you think this piece seems anti-American? Anti-Muslim?
8. Traditional advice given to beginning fiction writers says that when writing about a tragic event, do not attempt to write about the entire "picture" at once; instead, choose a small event or image on

which to focus. Describe how Brian Doyle follows this advice in his poem. What effect does focusing in on a single image have on you, the reader?

Task 2: Read this article:

<http://themillenniumreport.com/2014/08/the-11-most-compelling-911-conspiracy-theories/>

As with many politically-charged events, conspiracy theories quickly began to surface after 9/11. Choose one of the conspiracy theories discussed in the article that you believe **has merit**. Research this theory in depth; find out as many details as you can. Then compile the evidence **for** this theory into a convincing **presentation** that thoroughly **explains** the theory. Choose one of these options:

- a. a Keynote of at least 20 slides containing text, pictures, and video footage
- b. an iMovie of at least 5 minutes that contains footage of yourself explaining the theory along with pictures and video footage

Task 3: Using the same article, choose a different theory that you believe has **no merit**. Research this theory in depth; find out as many details as you can. Then compile the evidence against this theory into a convincing **essay** that thoroughly **refutes** the theory. This paper should be written in MLA format (12 pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins), and be a minimum of two and one-half pages.

This assignment counts as a **100 point major grade**. The complete assignment is due the second day of school. For each **day** the assignment is late, your grade will drop one letter grade.

Copying the work of other students or material found on the internet is plagiarism and will result in a zero for the assignment and further disciplinary action.

Please save all your work and be prepared to submit on Canvas. Your written work will be submitted through TurnItIn.

Be prepared to discuss and to complete additional assignments dealing with these topics during the first weeks of school.



9/11: The Timeline

8 a.m. »

American Airlines Flight 11 departs Boston's Logan International Airport en route to Los Angeles with 81 passengers and 11 crew members on board.

8:14 a.m. »

United Airlines Flight 175, carrying 56 passengers and six crew members, also takes off from Logan International bound for Los Angeles.

8:21 a.m. »

American Flight 77 leaves Washington Dulles International Airport, heading for Los Angeles with 58 passengers and six crew members on board.

8:42 a.m. »

United Flight 93 takes off from Newark International Airport with 38 passengers and seven crew members, bound for San Francisco.

9:21 a.m. «

All bridges and tunnels in the New York metropolitan area are closed to traffic.



9:17 a.m. «

The Federal Aviation Administration shuts down all New York-area airports.

9:03 a.m. «

Hijacked United Flight 175 slams into the south tower (Tower 2), again with no survivors.



8:46 a.m. «

Hijacked American Flight 11 crashes into the north tower (Tower 1) of the World Trade Center, killing all on board.



9:30 a.m. »

President Bush, in Sarasota, Fla., announces that the country has suffered "an apparent terrorist attack."



9:40 a.m. »

The FAA halts all non-military flights in the U.S., marking the first time all air traffic nationwide has been shut down.

| Arrival from | Time | Passengers | Flight Data |
|---------------|-------|------------|-------------|
| Dallas-Ft. W. | 8:23A | Completed | DL 8825 66A |
| Dallas-Ft. W. | 8:28A | Completed | MD80-82 86A |
| Phoenix | 8:28A | Completed | CO2218 82 |
| Phoenix | 8:28A | Completed | 3232 84 |
| Guatemala | 8:30A | Completed | NW732 84 |
| Guatemala | 8:31A | Completed | CR700 84 |

9:43 a.m. »

Hijacked American Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon, outside Washington, D.C., killing all on board. One of the building's five sides collapses.

9:59 a.m. »

The south tower of the trade center collapses, showering debris on evacuees and emergency crews.



1:04 p.m. «

President Bush, from a Louisiana air base, vows to "hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

11 a.m. «

Gov. Pataki declares a state of emergency and postpones primary elections. Mayor Giuliani orders lower Manhattan evacuated, and urges city residents to stay home.



10:29 a.m. «

The north tower of the trade center collapses. More than 2,500 people and hundreds of rescue workers are killed in the twin strikes.



10:10 a.m. «

United Flight 93 crashes in a field in Somerset County, Pa., as passengers try to stop hijackers from heading to Washington. All on board are killed.



1:27 p.m. »



A state of emergency is declared in Washington, D.C.

2:30 p.m. »

The FAA announces there will be no commercial air traffic into or out of the U.S. for at least 24 hours.

5:20 p.m. »

Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex collapses. Other nearby buildings remain ablaze.



8:30 p.m.

President Bush, back at the White House, tells the nation; "These acts shattered steel but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."



Remarks at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, on the Terrorist Attacks September 11, 2001

Freedom, itself, was attacked this morning by a faceless coward, and freedom will be defended. I want to reassure the American people that the full resources of the Federal Government are working to assist local authorities to save lives and to help the victims of these attacks. Make no mistake: The United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts.

I've been in regular contact with the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, the national security team, and my Cabinet. We have taken all appropriate security precautions to protect the American people. Our military at home and around the world is on high-alert status, and we have taken the necessary security precautions to continue the functions of your Government.

We have been in touch with the leaders of Congress and with world leaders to assure them that we will do whatever is necessary to protect America and Americans.

I ask the American people to join me in saying a thanks for all the folks who have been fighting hard to rescue our fellow citizens and to join me in saying a prayer for the victims and their families.

The resolve of our great Nation is being tested. But make no mistake: We will show the world that we will pass this test.

God bless.

George W. Bush

The Deliberate and Deadly Attacks...Were Acts of War

President's Address from Cabinet Room following Cabinet Meeting, 12 September 2001

I just completed a meeting with our national security team, and we've received the latest intelligence updates. The deliberate and deadly attacks, which were carried out yesterday against our country, were more than acts of terror. They were acts of war. This will require our country to unite in steadfast determination and resolve. Freedom and democracy are under attack. The American people need to know we're facing a different enemy than we have ever faced. This enemy hides in shadows and has no regard for human life. This is an enemy who preys on innocent and unsuspecting people, then runs for cover, but it won't be able to run for cover forever. This is an enemy that tries to hide, but it won't be able to hide forever. This is an enemy that thinks its harbors are safe, but they won't be safe forever. This enemy attacked not just our people but all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world.

The United States of America will use all our resources to conquer this enemy. We will rally the world. We will be patient. We'll be focused, and we will be steadfast in our determination. This battle will take time and resolve, but make no mistake about it, we will win. The federal government and all our agencies are conducting business, but it is not business as usual. We are operating on heightened security alert. America is going forward, and as we do so, we must remain keenly aware of the threats to our country.

Those in authority should take appropriate precautions to protect our citizens. But we will not allow this enemy to win the war by changing our way of life or restricting our freedoms. This morning, I am sending to Congress a request for emergency funding authority so that we are prepared to spend whatever it takes to rescue victims, to help the citizens of New York City and Washington, D. C., respond to this tragedy, and to protect our national security. I want to thank the members of Congress for their unity and support. America is united. The freedom-loving nations of the world stand by our side. This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil, but good will prevail.

Thank you very much.

The New Yorker

Editorial by Susan Sontag

September 24, 2001

The disconnect between last Tuesday's monstrous dose of reality and the self-righteous drivel and outright deceptions being peddled by public figures and TV commentators is startling, depressing. The voices licensed to follow the event seem to have joined together in a campaign to infantilize the public. Where is the acknowledgement that this was not a "cowardly" attack on "civilization" or "liberty" or "humanity" or "the free world" but an attack on the world's self-proclaimed super-power, undertaken as a consequence of specific American alliances and actions? How many citizens are aware of the ongoing American bombing of Iraq? And if the word "cowardly" is to be used, it might be more aptly applied to those who kill from beyond the range of retaliation, high in the sky, than to those willing to die themselves in order to kill others. In the matter of courage (a morally neutral virtue): whatever may be said of the perpetrators of Tuesday's slaughter, they were not cowards.

Our leaders are bent on convincing us that everything is O.K. America is not afraid. Our spirit is unbroken, although this was a day that will live in infamy and America is now at war. But everything is not O.K. And this was not Pearl Harbor. We have a robotic president who assures us that America stands tall. A wide spectrum of public figures, in and out of office, who are strongly opposed to the policies being pursued abroad by this Administration apparently feel free to say nothing more than that they stand united behind President Bush. A lot of thinking needs to be done, and perhaps is being done in Washington and elsewhere, about the ineptitude of American intelligence and counter-intelligence, about options available to American foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East, and about what constitutes a smart program of military defense. But the public is not being asked to bear much of the burden of reality. The unanimously applauded, self-congratulatory bromides of a Soviet Party Congress seemed contemptible. The unanimity of the sanctimonious, reality-concealing rhetoric spouted by American officials and media commentators in recent days seems, well, unworthy of a mature democracy.

Those in public office have let us know that they consider their task to be a manipulative one: confidence-building and grief management. Politics, the politics of a democracy--which entails disagreement, which promotes candor--has been replaced by psychotherapy. Let's by all means grieve together. But let's not be stupid together. A few shreds of historical awareness might help us to understand what has just happened, and what may continue to happen. "Our country is strong", we are told again and again. I for one don't find this entirely consoling. Who doubts that America is strong? But that's not all America has to be.

Open Letter to Susan Sontag

by Melissa Byles

May I interpret you a little, Susan Sontag? You tell us you despise TV, you never watch it when you're at home, you don't even own a TV set, but on September 11 you were in Berlin and, like so many of us, you were glued to CNN. That's understandable. Then you became incensed. Not by the images, but by the words. The terrorists who had crashed those planes were being called "cowards," their action "cowardly." A travesty of language! So right away you shot off an article to *The New Yorker*, which appeared in the September 24 issue, the one with the black-on-black subtle cover, and was translated in several foreign newspapers. Your point:

"If the word 'cowardly' is to be used, it might be more aptly applied to those who kill from beyond the range of retaliation, high in the sky [i.e. American bomber pilots], than to those willing to die themselves in order to kill others. In the matter of courage (a morally neutral virtue): whatever may be said of the perpetrators of Tuesday's slaughter, they were not cowards."

You made your point. But was it opportune? To blame for using the wrong words those whose job was to say something publicly about the day's events, yet who likely were stunned almost to speechlessness as we all were -- like blaming Bush for blurting out, at the beginning, that we wanted Osama bin Laden dead or alive -- seems more than a little pedantic and censorious: it looks like a comic caricature of "the intellectual." And over and beyond the issue of timeliness, and passing over, too, your parenthetical statement that courage is a morally neutral virtue (parentheses are almost invariably pregnant with hard questions): is it really true that the perpetrators of the September 11 slaughter cannot be called "cowards"? More generally, is not "cowards" an apt word for fanatics of all sorts? Obviating life's perplexing ambiguities, the difficult problems of being in the world and of living with others, in the name of a simple faith in a beyond -- in this particular case, a faith which promises those young men who blow themselves up for Allah eternal delights in a paradise where flow rivers of milk, wine and clarified honey, with beautiful maidens whose virginity is ever renewed, like the moon -- may we not properly call such contempt for life and such simple faith cowardly? I am putting this question about cowardice to you without much hope of getting an answer: "intellectuals" do not like to deal with live questions or questions about faith. Too intractable.

Am I being unfair in calling you an intellectual between quotes? Yet I think it's justified. You've always felt nostalgia for mandarins -- I mean the European regime of several generations ago whose vir egregius was Sartre; those intellectuals who could be counted on to give categorical opinions on no matter what. I remember your admiration for Gide, for Valéry, for Barthes. They could discuss so elegantly what they knew nothing about. They seemed set so high up, Olympian, universal. So philosophical. Recently I read your interview with a journalist, Francesca Borrelli, and you sound much

like those intellectuals of yore: thus my quotation marks. You appear to have no doubts about what's right and what's wrong. Sanctions against Iraq, for example, are wrong because many Iraqis are suffering. You may be right, and perhaps the U.S. should instead wage another quick war to topple Saddam Hussein. I cannot say. And once again, you state that all high functionaries in the U.S. government are at a loss for words, they cannot speak properly about our dire predicament. You, of course, believe you can and you do; another reason for the quotation marks.

Yet by far the most important distinction in philosophy, ever since Socrates and up to Kant, is the one between what we know and what we do not know. One would not notice this by reading your models, who were inspired by less cautious thinkers -- thinkers of the Hegel sort, who brandished their thoughts not as their own, but God's -- and who followed their masters in confusing knowing and not knowing into a hopeless mess. It is funny, or perhaps sad: watching C-SPAN, listening to a Pentagon official answering questions from journalists and making careful distinctions between what they know for sure, what is merely likely, and what they don't know at all about the situation in Afghanistan or elsewhere, one gets the impression that they at the Pentagon are better philosophers and more honest intellectuals than either you or the models you admire. Admittedly, an impression caused by method and style; as for content, the Pentagon might be feeding us lies: it wouldn't be the first time. U.S. government officials are not very good with words, as you point out, but setting, as you do, more store on how thoughts are expressed than on their quality and their honesty -- especially on that basic distinction between knowledge and ignorance -- is the trademark of the sophist, as Socrates never tired of repeating.

You feel proud to belong to the group of American intellectuals ("alas, how few") who are dissenters. Gore Vidal, Noam Chomsky, and others. I can sympathize with that; I too aspire to be a celebrated author, a dissenter. But being a dissenter does not excuse a lack of intellectual rigor. True, part of the information we need if we are to have well-founded opinions is classified; other parts are ambiguous. Well then, what's wrong with saying occasionally, "I don't know," or "I'm not sure"? Even from a purely rhetorical perspective, it would be a smart move. Your chief argument -- which is your fellow dissenters' chief argument as well -- that our country is afflicted with imperial arrogance, would thereby gain in dignity, and it will become more persuasive once it is presented with less intellectual arrogance.

Talking To Your Child About The WTC Attack

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<http://www.theonion.com/articles/talking-to-your-child-about-the-wtc-attack,8058/>

The events of Sept. 11 are extremely difficult for a child to understand. What should you tell your child when he or she asks why this happened? Obviously, there's no easy answer, but the following is a start:

- Sit your child down, and gently explain to him or her that the destruction of the Twin Towers was part of a Holy War, or jihad, against the U.S. perpetrated by a small faction of Islamic fundamentalists bent on the annihilation of Western society.
- As your child may or may not know, much of modern Islamic fundamentalism has its roots in the writings of Sayyid Qutb, whose two-year sojourn to the U.S. in the late 1940s convinced him that Western society and non-Islamic ideologies were flawed and corrupt. Over the course of the next several decades, his writings became increasingly popular throughout the Arab world, including Afghanistan.
- Patiently explain to your child that in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, outraging the U.S. Determined to stem the tide of communism, the U.S. provided Afghanistan with military support in the form of weapons and training. Among the beneficiaries of this support were many of Qutb's radical-fundamentalist adherents. These fundamentalists eventually took over Afghanistan in the form of a group called the Taliban. Militarized and radicalized by years of war, Taliban leaders turned against the U.S., which long supported them in their fight against the occupying Soviets but eventually came to be seen as the embodiment of Western immorality.
- You should also let your child know that among those supported by the Taliban is Osama bin Laden, a Saudi multi-millionaire and terrorist who for years has taken refuge in encampments in the rugged hills of Afghanistan. Like his Taliban brethren, bin Laden believes that the U.S. is guilty of apostasy and should be punished accordingly.
- Your child will likely ask why bin Laden is so angry at the U.S. Explain to him or her that much of his anger is rooted in the fact that, during the Gulf War, the U.S. stationed troops in Saudi Arabia, the nation that is home to the Islamic holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Bin Laden was further angered by America's post-Gulf War efforts to oust Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein by imposing an embargo against his nation.
- No doubt, your child will have more questions. He or she will likely want to know what role

other terrorist groups played in the attack, as well as what destabilizing effects a U.S. invasion of Afghanistan could have on the increasingly volatile political climate in Pakistan. Hopefully, though, the above will serve as a start, helping your child better understand why the bad men did this terrible thing.

leap

reflection by brian doyle

A couple leaped from the south tower, hand in hand. They reached for each other and their hands met and they jumped.

Many people jumped. Perhaps hundreds. No one knows. They struck the pavement with such force that there was a pink mist in the air.

The mayor reported the mist.

A kindergarten boy who saw people falling in flames told his teacher that the birds were on fire. She ran with him on her shoulders out of the ashes.

Several pedestrians were killed by people falling from the sky.

A fireman was killed by a body falling from the sky.

But a man reached for a woman's hand and she reached for his hand and they leaped out the window holding hands.

Jennifer Brickhouse of New Jersey and Stuart DeHann of New York City saw this from far below.

I try to whisper prayers for the sudden dead, and the harrowed families of the dead, and the screaming souls of the murderers, but I keep coming back to his hand and her hand nestled in each other with such extraordinary ordinary succinct ancient naked stunning perfect simple ferocious love.

It is the most powerful prayer I can imagine, the most eloquent, the most graceful. It is everything that we are capable of against horror and loss and death. It is what makes me believe that we are not craven fools and charlatans to believe in God, to believe that human beings have greatness and holiness within them like seeds that open only under great fires, to believe that some unimaginable essence of who we are persists past the dissolution of what we were, to believe against such evil evidence hourly that love is why we are here.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, wrote John the Apostle.

I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face, John also wrote.

Jennifer Brickhouse saw them holding hands, and Stuart DeHann saw them holding hands, and I hold onto that.