

Summer Work for Rising Sophomores at Davidson Fine Arts
Honors American Literature and Composition
Ms. C. Veale

Our first unit in American Literature is entitled Foundations and Encounters: Early American Literature. Your summer work assignment is to read two texts that explore themes related to how humans try to maintain their sense of self and values when forced into unfamiliar circumstances. You will also be writing your own personal narrative essay in which you will describe your own personal beliefs and values, as well as the connection you have with the place you live. Your assignment is as follows.

1. READ the following texts.
 - a. [from *The Way to Rainy Mountain*](#)- Memoir by N. Scott Momaday
 - b. ["Mother Tongue"](#)- Essay by Amy Tan
2. COMPARE the themes and central ideas from each text as you read.
 - a. Consider the following questions. What values and beliefs do the authors try to maintain in their stories? How did circumstances affect his or her ability to do so? What places matter to the authors? How and why do they try to maintain ties to this place?
3. WRITE your own personal narrative that explores your relationship to the following questions. Include examples and references to the two texts that you read to connect to your own personal narrative. Use at least two examples from each text and cite your textual evidence in formal MLA format.
 - a. What values and beliefs shape who you are?
 - b. What connects you to the places you live/have lived? Is there a place where you feel particularly connected?
 - c. What does it mean to be a stranger in a strange land? Has there ever been a time in your life when you've felt like a stranger to the land or people around you?
 - Your narrative essay should be three pages, double spaced, MLA format. The style or your writing should emulate that of the memoir and essay that you read.

Your essay is due (printed!) **August 8**. This will be the first **minor grade** of the semester. We will also have a test over the reading on the first week of school, so if you complete the reading for this assignment early in the summer, it would be wise to review the texts before the school year begins.

Please email Ms. Veale (vealeco@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us) if you have any questions regarding this summer work assignment. I will be checking my email at least once a week over break, so if you do not hear from me right away, you should hear back from me within a week.

Have a great summer and I can't wait to see you all soon!

- Ms. Veale

Narrative Rubric for American Literature Summer Work

Answered the questions fully and in detail. Wrote in appropriate and formal style for a personal narrative.	Notes:
Included two references to <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> and two references to “Mother Tongue.” Clearly understands themes and central ideas from the two texts.	Notes:
Appropriate length. No errors in grammar, punctuation, or style. Uses clear and complete sentence structure, with appropriate range and variety.	Notes:
MLA format. Typed. Attributed paraphrases and direct quotations to their sources via in-text or parenthetical citations.	Notes:
Effectively developed experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences based on the texts you have read and real experiences.	Notes: