



**B.E. Mays High School
ELA Department
2019 Summer Reading Initiative**

Grade 12 Texts and Post-Reading Assignment

Choose one (1) of the following texts:

- *A Question of Freedom* by Dwayne Betts
- *She's Not There* by Jennifer Finney Boylan
- *Boy Erased* by Garrard Conley
- *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
- *American Prison* by Shane Bauer
- *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman

Post-Reading Assignment

1. Consult www.tinyAPS.com/?opposingviewpoints and <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>.
2. Choose a topic related to your chosen novel.
3. Based on that topic, you should find two (2) articles from ideologically conflicting sources and complete a reflection where you triangulate your two sources and your own cognitive bias (Basically, how do you think about your own biases toward a topic or issue as you reflect on what others think and feel?).

For EACH article, students must complete the following:

1. **Bias Check:** What cognitive and cultural bias did you experience reading this article? Share how it affected your perception of the content.
2. **Summary:** Summarize the article in roughly the length of a Tweet.
3. **Analyze the Narrative:** Who are the "heroes & villains" in the article? What "story" was it trying to tell and how could that affect people's perception?
4. **Rhetorical Appeals:** How did the author use ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade?

(over)

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**Grade 12 Post-Reading Assignment
(Continued)**

5. **Conceptual relationship:** Make a conceptual relationship statement based on the articles you read as it relates to the novel you read.

(**Conceptual Relationship:** The relationships between characters and themes in the novel and articles and how your own personal bias is conceptualized or illustrated in the novel and articles).

Topics for Discussion/Argument on a Chosen Platform:

- **Capitalism & competition** aren't inherently good or bad, but they cause a lot of our current societal problems: anxiety, divisiveness, fear, inequality, corruption, etc.
- **Language and labels** often fail to communicate the complex ideas and systems they represent, so often times we're arguing more over definitions than discussing ideas.
- **Facts don't matter** as much as the frame they're presented in. We need to have empathy and listen to other people. Stories about people's lives can cut through the politics and posturing and help us be more compassionate.
- A lot of **beliefs are based on stories** that might offer psychological comfort (the wall, The American Dream, Democracy, etc.) but don't actually operate the way those narratives suggest they would.

Platforms to Exhibit Your Discussion/Arguments

- 10-20 minute video
- Prezi/Google Slides/PowerPoint Presentation (minimum 15-20 slides)
- Change.org petition
- 5 page persuasive essay in MLA format
- Create a website (wix.com, weebly, etc.)
- Create a podcast (www.podbean.com)

Utilize Purdue Owl for formatting in MLA styleguide

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

Due Dates

Your assignment should be submitted to your Grade 12 ELA teacher between **August 19, 2019** and **August 23, 2019**.