

May 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Albuquerque Academy's English department encourages lifelong and yearlong reading. While we continue to encourage open-ended summer reading, we have two required assignments for rising seniors this summer. First, we ask each rising senior to complete a working draft of his/her college essay over the summer. We believe that generating a draft during the summer break (after preparatory work in your junior English classes) will relieve some of the intense stress of the college application process in the fall, and more importantly, that such timely attention to the college essay will enable you to reflect on your experiences fully and will help you produce a genuinely compelling and true portrait of yourself.

Each rising senior should be ready to submit the best version (thus far) of his or her college essay during the first week of English class. You have already been given a packet that includes sample college essay questions, advice about the writing process, and several exercises to help you generate a topic. We expect you to use those resources to produce an approximately 500-word draft essay that will be edited in your English classes early in the first quarter. If you have generated a draft essay in your junior English class already, we encourage you to revise it and bring it the first day. If you'd like to start fresh, feel free to do so. There will also be opportunities to work on additional college essays with your senior English teacher.

In addition, rising seniors must also choose a book from the 12th grade section of the 10-12 LibGuide. This list was generated by faculty and students in the 10-12 Division. You will find a feast of styles, genres, and subjects on this list—everything from the comic to the genuinely scary, from classic novels to modern non-fiction. Our single rule about choosing a book is that you must love the book. If you don't like it, pick another one. When you return in the fall, you should be prepared to write an essay on your book.

Summer reading is part of the regular senior-year English curriculum, so failure to complete the reading and the attendant assignments will have an impact on your first quarter grade. We suggest planning ahead in order to complete your assignments successfully.

Here is the link to the site: http://albuquerqueacademy.libguides.com/summer_reading10-12
Most of all we hope that you enjoy what you read this summer and that it spurs you to read further and more widely.

Sincerely,

12th Grade English Teachers
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Laura Matter
Cynde Moore

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