8th Grade PreAP Summer Assignment 2015

Questions? Contact Mrs. Orr at [SOrr@pasadenaisd.org](mailto:SOrr@pasadenaisd.org)

This year all 8th grade PreAP ELAR students will complete the “Analyzing Awesome Authors” section of the Texas Performance Standards Project during the spring semester. This summer assignment will provide the background information you will need for the project. The summer assignment consists of four parts:

* Select an author who has written at least two books. The author must write young adult or adult fiction. No Dr. Suess or other children’s authors! Research the author. Write a biographical essay telling about your author. The essay should include basic information such as birthdate/place, family, and what the author has written. **You should also include a description of the author’s style, and who/what influenced the author.** Your essay should be approximately 400 words.
* Complete a bibliography for your essay. **Use Bibme.org for formatting**. You must include a minimum of THREE sources.
* Read two books written by the author you selected. Pay careful attention to the similarities and differences between the books.
* Write a 1-2 page essay explaining how the books were similar and how they were different. Include characters and their relationships, setting, and theme.

**FAQ:**

**Can my assignment be hand-written?**  
No. All parts of the assignment should be typed and submitted via Schoology.

**How do I enroll in the Schoology class?**Go to Schoology.com. Follow the directions to set up an account if you do not already have one. The class code is **MJQVB-Z7T24.** I will have to accept you into the course. If you signed up before leaving school for the summer, you are already approved. If you did not, you will have to wait to submit your project until August.

**When should I submit my assignment?**  
You may submit your assignment any time before the first day of school. You may submit each part as you complete it, or you may submit all parts at one time. Be sure to upload each part into the correct folder.

**Is this for a grade?**  
Yes! This is for three major grades for the first six weeks. Each piece counts twice. Plus, you will need this information when we start the Texas Performance Standards Project in February.

**Help! I’ve tried and tried and I just can’t figure out how to submit via Schoology! What do I do?????**

Print out all parts of your assignment. Put them in a folder with brads. Print your name in ink on the front. Bring this with you on the first day of school. Save your work on a flash drive so you will have it later.

**Hints:**  
  
Underline the titles of books.

Check your grammar and spelling. Ask someone to read your essays out loud so you can listen for mistakes.

Don’t use fancy fonts or colors.

All parts of the assignment must be submitted by August 25, 2015. This is the first day of school.

Don’t wait until August to start. This assignment is designed to take approximately three to four weeks!