**Dear College Prep English Sophomores,**

Your summer reading book is:

***The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*,** by [The Freedom Writers](https://www.amazon.com/The-Freedom-Writers/e/B0088S9MFU/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1465426557&sr=1-1) (with Erin Gruwell) and Zlata Filipovic

**Assignment:**

1. **Prior to reading**, you will write **one thoughtful** journal entry where you will respond to any of following topics or a combination of them:

1. Oppression and tolerance
2. Earning respect and trust
3. Overcoming adversity
4. Family relationships
5. Violence
6. The power of words
7. Having courage
8. Inequality in education and/or other systems

Your entry needs to be one full page and should include your thoughts, questions, observations, etc. about the topic. Some possibilities include (but are not limited to):

* Explain what the topic means to you.
* Why is the topic important? Is the topic important?
* Describe your own personal experiences with the topic.
* Have you heard anything in the news about any of the topics?

2. **Closely read and annotate the book**, paying special attention to the themes presented. If you are unable to annotate in the book, use post-it notes or keep a log in a notebook /composition book. You may organize this chronologically or another way that makes sense to you (i.e. by stylistic device, literary element - character; theme; symbolism, etc.). These annotations are for you and will not be submitted.

**3. After you read the book, write another journal entry.** This one will be a personal reflection. Choose and describe the most important takeaways (concepts, issues, factual information, etc.) from the readings and justify your choices. Do not summarize – comment on the events and themes.

The two journals should be handwritten, **¾ to** **one page** in length, written margin to margin, and on separate sheets of paper (not back to back).

During the first weeks of school, you will take a check for reading quiz or exam. There will also be some lessons and discussions surrounding the book.

You may purchase the book or check it out from the public library. If you are unable to do either, please contact Shawna Bell, before July 15th, at bells@scusd.edu for further instructions.

**You must also bring the books to class, beginning the first day. You will need the book for the first few weeks of school. Again, if you are unable to do so, see Mrs. Bell for a copy.**

We hope that you enjoy your reading and your summer!