

Dear Incoming 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 \(with Erin Gruwell\)](#) and Zlata Filipovic

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.).

Prior to reading, you will write nine **thoughtful** journal entries, each on a separate sheet of paper so they can be added to your class journal, where you will respond to the following topics:

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

For each entry, write 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?

The last journal entry will be a personal reflection. Choose and describe the most important takeaways (concepts, issues, factual information, etc.) from the readings and justify your choices.

The journals should be handwritten, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ page in length, written margin to margin, and on separate sheets of paper (no back to back).

During the first weeks of school, you will take an exam on the reading, and additionally, there will be class lessons and a writing assignment designed around the summer reading.

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 book to class, beginning the first day. You will need the book for the first few weeks of school.

We hope that you enjoy your reading and your summer!