



Rising Twelfth Grade Summer Reading

You are required to read three books in their entirety (*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, *1984* by George Orwell, and a book of your choice on your thesis topic), in addition to a historical speech.

The required reading may be purchased at Books-A-Million, or online at booksamillion.com or Amazon.com.

Mere Christianity
1984

ISBN 9780060652920 (paperback)
ISBN 9780451524935 (paperback)

Assignment I: *Mere Christianity*

From the Foreword:

“Lewis seeks in *Mere Christianity* to help us see religion with fresh eyes, as a radical faith whose adherents might be likened to an underground group gathering in a war zone, a place where evil seems to have the upper hand, to hear messages of hope from the other side.” *Kathleen Norris*

Mere Christianity is a short book (175 pages) about basic Christianity. It is designed to help the reader think about the Christian faith in very practical terms.

Your Assignment

Read the book, including the preface and foreword. Take notes as you read, paying particular attention to passages in the text that you find interesting, or about which you have questions. As you take notes, please give consideration to the following:

1. the general theme of the four books
2. definitions and terms with which you are unfamiliar**
3. a list of the key concepts of the book
4. your questions about the author’s propositions and conclusions

We will spend the first week of school discussing the major ideas presented in this book. Be prepared to participate fully in this discussion using the notes that you have taken. Your notes need not be lengthy, but they do need to be carefully thought through.

**You are expected to expand your vocabulary by looking up the definitions of words with which you are unfamiliar and keep lists of those words.



Assignment II: Historical Speech

Prior to the beginning of summer vacation, each member of the class will select one speech from a list provided by the instructor. Students will report and present on their selection during the first two weeks of school. You will be required to do your own research to report on the following:

1. the historical context of the speech
2. the speaker's intent and audience
3. rhetorical qualities of the speech
4. your assessment of the speech's efficacy

Your 10-minute presentation should include a visual aid, along with a 3-4-minute reenactment of an excerpt from the speech itself. Rather than a straightforward reading, this recitation should be an attempt to capture the spirit and tone of the original delivery (bonus credit may be awarded for memorization and/or creativity).

Assignment III:

As discussed in the spring, you will select and read a book related to your senior thesis topic. Prepare an annotated citation for the book and be prepared to give an 8-10-minute presentation (with visual aid) on its contents and how they might inform your argument and/or further research during the first two weeks of school. **BONUS** credit may be given for an annotated bibliography citing further general research over the summer.

Assignment IV: *1984*

We will begin the 2023-24 school year in Government class discussing George Orwell's *1984*. You will be expected to have read the book thoroughly by then in order to discuss it in class. Reading includes learning unfamiliar words. This dramatically improves understanding of the text. Please keep a list of these words. Please **take notes** as you read. The notes should remind you of passages that you particularly liked as well as those you had difficulty understanding. Your notes are not a re-creation of the book but a reminder for discussion. **Be thorough.**

In addition to having read the book for the first day of class you are expected to hand in a **full explanation** of this quote from *1984*: **"Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."** Think about **its application to the present as well as its purpose in the book**. This book was published the year after my birth and is as timely now as then. How could these two short sentences possibly speak to a span of over 70 years?

This explanation should be no longer than 2 ½ pages typed, single-spaced, using Arial 12 font. This will be counted as a test grade. Your senior year brings with it many privileges, both in school and out of school. With these privileges come added responsibilities, higher standards, and greater expectations. Do your best work and start your senior year by setting your own standard!