

Grade 11/12 **Creative Writing** Cross Genre Portfolio/Capstone Summer Homework 2020
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Writing: On paper and/or in digital form, keep a record of your thoughts, observations, and experiences this summer. If you were in my class when schools closed, continue the work you are already doing. Whether you do this daily or periodically, keep in mind that observations and dialogue are best recorded while they are fresh. Make lists: what you see, read, eat, watch, do, want, feel, learn. Seek to make these lists unique – what can you choose to observe that another person might not pay attention to? Write down ideas for stories, poems, articles, songs, and/or scripts. Write scraps or drafts of these ideas. Notice language: write down words, terms, historical references, favorite lines. Notice punctuation – copy examples of uses that are unfamiliar to you and experiment with them. Include drawings, measurements, questions, research tangents, titles or subjects you intend to pursue later, etc. Let this document show the richness and breadth of your imaginative life. Let it be a space for experimentation as well as idea storage. The form of it is very flexible – as long as you can harvest material from it, the form can reflect your personality.

The more quantity of material you have when we return to school, the better prepared you will be to begin the first assignments.

Reading: Notice that you are reading in a variety of forms every day. Much of our food, for example, has packaging covered in language. Read like a writer. How do packages organize information, choose words for certain effects, change fonts and font sizes based on what the companies want us to look at or overlook? Copy language from packaging, television, video games, websites, clothing, books, music, movies, etc. into your journal/record of writing. If you are consuming a form of entertainment that doesn't have text, listen to the language. Think about how the characters are written, and whether they seem real and unique or not. Notice contextual information – the objects, settings, physicality of the piece. Keep track of the place your observations came from: who wrote, directed, designed, drew, filmed the text you are studying? Think about what you admire in a storyline, a song, a poem, a film, a garment, an article etc. Think about what you dislike. Explain it. Question it. Analyze it.

Read what you already love to read and also try genres you don't usually consume. If you don't read nonfiction by choice, find a subject you enjoy and read articles about it. Try podcasts or vlogs you wouldn't ordinarily have tried. Watch films from other eras. Develop new interests. Listen to new voices.

The more you read, the better you will write. Be prepared to share your observations about your reading/listening/viewing when we return to school.