

Grade 9 **Creative Writing** Media Arts Writing Summer Homework 2020 Dr. Carla Sarr

**Writing:** On paper and/or in digital form, keep a record of your thoughts, observations, and experiences daily or multiple times a week. Make lists: what you see, read, eat, watch, do, want, feel, learn. Write down ideas for stories, poems, articles, songs, and/or scripts. Write scraps or drafts of these ideas. Notice language: use a range of words, describe in fresh ways. Notice punctuation – experiment with it! Also notice how people talk: write their words and expressions as precisely as you can. Good writing is in the details, and strong details come from careful observation and notes. 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 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 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. Keep track of the place your observations came from: who wrote them, directed them, designed them. Think about what you admire in a storyline, a song, a poem, 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 some podcasts or vlogs you wouldn't have ordinarily tried. Watch films from other eras. Develop new interests.

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.