

AP Inquiry Project: Independent Reading Requirement and Spring Final

Overview: Each of you has subjects of particular interest to you that school rarely gives you the opportunity to investigate. This assignment outlines the second-semester reading requirement. The purpose of this semester's independent reading assignment remains the same as it was last semester:

to prepare you for the AP exam on May 8. In addition, however, I want each of you to leave your senior year having investigated a topic of great personal interest in depth, by using several different books you choose.

Requirements

Each student must:

- Read *three* books by semester's end, all of them AP-level novels (though you can, if you wish, substitute one novel with a relevant nonfiction book).
- Read one book per grading period.
- Write in-class essays on the first two books as we have done all year; these essays will be based on your own BQs (Big Questions).
- Submit a written proposal that includes everything outlined below.
- Investigate your subject through at least three other sources, all of which must be included in your bibliography.
- Perform, produce, or present your final project; it must incorporate all *three* books (during the last week of the semester and on the day of the final).
- Turn in a typed annotated bibliography of independent books that includes:
 - Introduction that clearly identifies the Big Question you sought to answer this semester, *briefly* explains *why* this subject interests you, and identifies (in *bullets*) the three main conclusions you drew from your study of this topic through these books.
 - Title, author, publisher, publication date, city, and number of pages (i.e., complete and proper citation information for each book).
 - Approximately seventy-five (75) words that explain not only what the book was about but also how it related to your Big Question.

Proposal

Each student must submit a typed, one-page proposal (see example on the back) by next Monday; it should include the following:

- *The subject of your inquiry* (nature, science, relationships, Africa, self-image)
- *A guiding question* (or questions) about this subject (e.g., What is mankind's place in the natural world?)
- *A rationale* for why you want to study this subject all semester
- *A summary* of what you know about this subject at this time
- *A prediction* about what you think you will discover during your investigation
- *The titles and authors* of the three books you will read this semester
- *A discussion* as to the importance of this subject (which answers the questions, "So what?")
- *Other possible sources* (websites, publications, people, organizations) you might consult to satisfy the three "additional sources."

Sample Set

Here is a sample set of three books you might read as part of this investigation:

- *The Places in Between*, Rory Stewart
- *What Is the What?* Dave Eggers
- *The Sheltering Sky*, Paul Bowles

Each of these books charts the experiences of people in foreign countries who are on journeys to escape from or discover something. All are set in Muslim countries, one of them describing Rory Stewart's walking trip through Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban.

Note: Students must read the books listed on their proposal; you may, if you learn of new and more relevant titles, revise but *please check with me first*.