



THE KNOX SCHOOL

English III 2020 Summer Assignment

In Cold Blood, Truman Capote

Part One: Read and Take Notes/Annotate.

Consider these questions while you read:

This novel was an instant success upon publication, and it has gone on to arguably become the most famous “true crime” novel of all-time; why do you think this is? What could drive someone to commit a mass murder? Where do you see evidence of the conflict between an author attempting to find the truth while respecting the privacy and feelings of the family and friends of the victims? What is the author’s tone toward the crime? Toward the criminals and the victims? Toward the death penalty? How is the setting of the Holcomb community important to the story?

It is recommended that you purchase and annotate the text to develop a better understanding of the novel. Tips for annotation are attached.

Part Two: Essay

Prompt: A common psychological debate is whether individuals are more controlled by “nature” (the inherited traits over which we have no control, such as eye color, disease, etc.) or “nurture” (the upbringing by our parents and family members). Discuss nature versus nurture as it relates to Dick and Perry and draw a conclusion in which you support which is more important.

Guidelines:

1. Proper MLA Format
2. Essay should be at least 3 pages, double-spaced.
3. 12 pt Times New Roman font; 1 inch margins
4. Avoid using words like “I” and “You”
5. Include a strong thesis
6. Incorporate textual evidence to support your thesis
7. Avoid SUMMARIZING the book. Be sure to ANALYZE.

Due Date: A PRINTED copy of your assignment will be due on the first day of your English III class.

All late assignments will be subjected to a grade reduction or penalty, as outlined in the course syllabus and copied below:

English Department Late Work Policy:

“All essays and projects are expected to be submitted on or before the due date. Essays not submitted on time will be subjected to a 10% deduction of max points per day. No essays will be accepted after five (5) days.”

Tips for Annotating a Text

INTERACT with the reading.

- Mark it up! (Make your own key. Annotations are designed to help you understand and be able to review and/or discuss the reading)
 - Use SYMBOLS to mark important details.
 - “?” - I’m not sure what is going on. I’m not sure what is meant by this sentence, paragraph, etc.
 - “!”- This is exciting; I agree
 - ↔ - connections between different parts of the text
 - Color Code! Use colors to mark important details.
 - Words I don’t know and need to look up.
 - Literary devices
 - Important character details
 - Interesting or important details that pertain to understanding the story
- Write in your book (you can also use post-it notes if you prefer not to write in the book)
 - COMMENT on what is happening
 - Do you agree or disagree?
 - Is this a change in characterization? How so?
 - Is this a change in plot/storyline? How did it change?
 - Is this a big event? Small event?
 - Is it a foreshadow of something to come? A flashback of something that happened?
 - QUESTION the text
 - Why is this happening?
 - Why did the author include this? Why it is included here? What purpose does it serve to the text? Would it be different if it was included at a different time in the story? How?
 - Why is the character behaving this way? How is it different from before? What does it reveal about the character?
 - What might this piece reveal about the rest of the story? How does it make something clearer from earlier in the story?
 - CONNECT to the text
 - How can you relate to a character?
 - How can you relate to the author?
 - What about the author’s life is showing in the text?
 - What are some allusions?
 - What are some similar real-life examples of what is happening in the text?
 - ASSOCIATE the text with another reading
 - Textual allusions
 - Similar details
 - Connections between the authors?

LEARN from the text

- Historical Context

- What is the time period of the story? What is the time period the story was written? How do they connect or differ?
- Author Study
 - What was the author's childhood like? What sparked the author to write this text? What was the purpose of publishing this text?
- Response to the Text
 - How did readers initially respond to the text when it was published? Has the opinion changed since then? How?

REFLECT on the text

- What was the author's writing style?
- What were some patterns in the writing? Did it remind you of another author?
- What were some key themes or topics discussed in the text?
- Who was the text written for? Did it reach that audience? Why/Why not?
- What was the author's purpose? Did he/she accomplish that purpose?