

Summer Reading 2016
AP Language & Composition (11th Grade)

I. Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. Frankl's theory -- known as logotherapy, from the Greek word logos ("meaning") -- holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful. (Synopsis from Amazon)

II. The Heart and the Fist: The Education of a Humanitarian, The Making of a Navy SEAL by Eric Greitens

Like many young idealists, Eric Greitens wanted to make a difference, so he traveled to the world's trouble spots to work in refugee camps and serve the sick and the poor. Yet when innocent civilians were threatened with harm, there was nothing he could do but step in afterward and try to ease the suffering. In studying humanitarianism, he realized a fundamental truth: when an army invades, the weak need protection. So he joined the Navy SEALs and became one of the world's elite warriors.

Greitens led his men through the unforgettable soul-testing of SEAL training and worked deployments in Kenya, Afghanistan, and Iraq, where he faced harrowing encounters and brutal attacks. Yet even in the deadliest combat situations, the lessons of his humanitarian work bore fruit. At the heart of this powerful story lies a paradox: sometimes you have to be strong to do good, but you also have to do good to be strong. The heart and the fist together are more powerful than either one alone. (Synopsis by Amazon)

Essential Question: What is suffering, how do you overcome it, and how do you alleviate suffering in the world?

Assignment: First, buy the books and read them! You may buy used copies and the "edition" you purchase does not matter. For this assignment, you may use e-reader editions.

Next (or as you read), create a quote chart for each book following the model provided. Each quote needs to be compelling, needs to potentially be applied to a broader application, and each one needs to be important to you. You will turn in one quote chart for each book. Feel to email me over the summer if you have any questions at all. You'll use your quote chart for our opening seminars and first speech. Each quote chart should contain 20 entries for (20 per book). **Chart is due first day of class**. Keep the EQ in mind as you pull your quotes.

Assessments:

The first full week of school in the fall, we will seminar each book. Then you will be given a prompt that will launch your first speech based on the classical model of rhetorical oration, using embedded quotes from the books as your primary support. Don't worry, we will go over the classical model and look at how to embed quotes in class. You just need to have your quote chart completed and ready to use, and you need to have a comfortable, working knowledge of these two books. In other words, read the books and know them well enough to use them in an argument.

Grades: The quote charts are quiz grades, the seminars are quiz grades, and the speech is a test grade. So be ready. We also use these books to introduce annotation, rhetorical analysis, rhetorical precis and the classical model.

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