As an upcoming Honors English 11 student for the 2016-2017 school year, you will have the option to complete the following summer assignment. If you complete the assignment, you will receive the following: two homework passes that you may use in the coming year on any two homework assignments of your choice and 25 bonus points that you may use on any test grade in the coming year. Again, this assignment is OPTIONAL.

Directions

1. Purchase a copy of *The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* by Alexandra Robbins. You can find used copies on Amazon or at McKay’s.
2. Read it.
3. Purchase a Composition Notebook (the black/white marbled kind you find at office supply stores).
4. As you read, keep your own journal regarding the educational experiences you’ve had throughout your academic career. You want to have AT LEAST 10 entries (one for each of the years you’ve been in school).
5. Your entries should be written in blue/black ink.
6. Each entry should be approximately 1 ½ - 3 pages in length.
7. In each entry, make sure to reflect on an important lesson you learned in a particular school year. Remember, school means so much more than just academic learning. Is there someone or something (a teacher/a peer/your parents/life) that taught you an important lesson about failure/success, life in general, disappointment, education etc… What was this lesson? How did it change you? You get the idea….these are just some of the things you might address in your entries.
8. To give you an idea of what you might do, I’ve included a link to a piece by an American writer named Sherman Alexie. The piece is entitled “Indian Education.” Visit this link to read it: http://www.mpsaz.org/rmhs/staff/dmsokol/101/files/sherman\_alexie.pdf Not only is it entertaining, humorous, disturbing, saddening, and relatable at times, but it will also serve as an excellent model for your journal excerpts.
9. After you have read through Robbins’ book and Alexie’s article, and after you have completed your journal, compose a 2-3 page typed paper (MLA formatted, double-spaced, Times New Roman, Size 12” font) in which you answer the following:
10. Why do you feel that Robbins organized her book the way she did?
11. Was there a particular character that you connected to the most? If so, which character and why?
12. What was Robbins’ “thesis” in her book? What was her controlling argument?
13. What kind of support did she use for her argument? What was her most effective kind of support?

***The journal and the paper should be submitted on the first/second day of school (depending on what block you are in) – August 13th or 14th. Late work will not be accepted.***

Here’s the rubric that will be used to score your assignment:

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| CATEGORY | **4 - Above Standards** | **3 - Meets Standards** | **2 - Approaching Standards** | **1 - Below Standards** | **Score** |
| **Grammar & Spelling** | Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. |   |
| **Sequencing** | Statements are provided in a logical order that makes it easy and interesting to follow the author\'s train of thought. | Statements are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy to follow the author\'s train of thought. | Statements are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the entries and essay seem a little confusing. | Statements are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the entries and essay seem very confusing. |   |
| **Support/Content** | Student fully address the questions raised in the guidelines and goes even further by addressing other questions involving the topic. | Student addresses the questions raised in the guidelines. | Student addresses some of the questions raised in the guidelines. | Student addresses questions that don\'t fit with the topic at hand. |   |
| **Formatting** | Formatting guidelines are followed for both paper and journal. | Formatting guidelines are followed with only a few minor errors. | Formatting guidelines are followed with major errors. | Formatting guidelines are not followed. |   |