

E208: Accelerated Sophomore English – Summer Reading 2025

As future Sophomore Scholars in E208 - Accelerated Sophomore English, you are expected to engage in a summer reading experience that will prepare you for the rigor, independence, and depth of thinking the course demands. This initiative is not about a single assignment or grade; rather, it is about your long-term growth as a critical reader, writer, thinker, and communicator. We, your E208 teachers, have extensive experience in preparing students for AP English courses, college-level analysis, and the future challenges that await you; we also know that the students who excel in these endeavors are those who read widely, reflect deeply, and push themselves to grow. You deserve the opportunity to begin that growth now.

Why Summer Reading Matters

- Reading over the summer helps maintain and strengthen reading skills, preventing summer learning loss. It increases your exposure to complex texts, vocabulary, sentence structures, and rhetorical strategies: all essential preparation for the challenges ahead.
 - Too many bright students arrive in our classrooms underread, uncertain, and unprepared—not because they lack intelligence, but because they haven't been challenged to build a rich personal literary canon. You have an opportunity to change that. Reading now is an investment in your future confidence and success.
 - Your teachers have designed this initiative based on research, professional experience, and a deep understanding of what students need to succeed in accelerated courses, AP, college-level environments, the workforce, and beyond.
 - The scientifically proven lifelong benefits of frequent reading are abundant: increases emotional IQ, improves critical thinking skills, builds vocabulary, builds schema, strengthens writing skills, enhances memory functioning, reduces stress, improves problem solving skills, strengthens language and communication skills, improves cognitive processing - it literally rewires your brain to make you more efficient and learn faster. Where technology trains us to be distracted, reading combats this and improves concentration and focus.
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What You Need to Do

Read a Book...or Two...or More

1. Choose a book(s) which you've **never read**.
2. It must be widely deemed **at or above the 10th grade level**, based on its writing style and/or content.
3. It must **challenge you** in some way: academically, intellectually, contextually—through complex language, deep themes, or unfamiliar ideas.
4. **Think** about the book and your **process and experience** reading it; see it not as a single book you *have to* read, but a chance to level up in numerous ways.

Be Prepared to Talk About It

In August, when we begin class, you will be asked to write informally and talk about what you read and your experiences reading it. There will be **no formal assessment or essay or project or grade** because the benefits—or the consequences of not reading—are yours alone and will ultimately be reflected in who you are and everything you do, not simply one project grade. By completing the reading, you will notice the difference in your vocabulary, comprehension, academic readiness and sense of accomplishment at the start of the school year; on the other hand, if you choose not to read, you will feel the growing cognitive gap and the anxiety caused by lack of preparation, being behind your peers, and the unknown.

"Education is more than the information we accumulate in our heads. It's the habits we develop as we keep revising our drafts and the skills we build to keep learning" (pg 203). *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* - by: Adam Grant

Online Support Tools

Want help choosing your book or organizing your reading? Use the following super prompt to personalize your summer reading process.

Using the prompt, ChatGPT can help you:

- Get personalized **book recommendations**
- Generate **guiding questions** for deeper reading
- Create **annotation guides** to help you interact with the text
- Design **reading organizers** to track characters, events, and key ideas

Use the following link to access [The Summer Reading Support Tool](#)

Looking Ahead: What You Can Expect Next Year

In E208 - Accelerated Sophomore English, you will:

- Engage with challenging texts that promote perspective seeking and sharpen your analytical reading skills
- Explore rhetorical strategies, literary analysis, and argumentation
- Prepare for the demands of AP Language and Composition and beyond
- Develop your voice as a writer, thinker, and speaker
- Evaluate your academic skills and strategies and refine them for the most effective outcomes
- Work both independently and collaboratively for the benefit of our shared learning environment

This course is designed for capable, motivated students who are ready to push beyond the basics. The first step starts with the books you choose to read this summer.

Contact Information

Your E208 teacher could be any of the following; feel free to reach out to us if you have questions. Please include ALL of the E208 teachers in a single email when reaching out. Thank you.

Enjoy your reading. Challenge yourself. We believe in you!

Ms. Ahmed

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Mr. Brown

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Mrs. Chung

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Mrs. Conneely

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Mrs. Gilbert

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A Note to Parents, Guardians, & Caregivers

We ask for your support in encouraging your child to complete their summer reading. This initiative is not punitive and does not involve a grade. Instead, it reflects our commitment to your child's growth, confidence, and success in a college preparatory English environment. Among other benefits, reading lays the foundation for advanced coursework, including AP Language and Composition and supports lifelong academic and personal achievement. Thank you for helping us build those habits now, and we look forward to partnering with you this upcoming school year.
