

Blended Honors Senior Rhetoric Summer Reading Project 2025

Introduction to Honors Senior Rhetoric

Welcome! The major goal of this course is to expose you to the wide variety of writing assignments that you will encounter in college and beyond. As a result, a heavy emphasis will be placed on research and synthesis. While these skills are not new to you, there is still much to be learned about generating research questions, conducting an exhaustive review of relevant literature, and creating a claim/conclusion based on sound reasoning techniques.

To build these skills, you will complete an extended research task that will serve as the benchmark experience for this course. In brief, you will choose a topic/focus early in the course, and then you will spend the rest of the semester researching your topic, consulting texts from various genres. Once all of your information is compiled, including personal experience and primary sources, you will produce a final product that synthesizes your research and presents an arguable claim generated from your findings.

To be successful with this project, it is crucial to find an “inspiration text” that introduces you to the topic and helps you to generate research questions that will guide your review of sources. To get you started, your summer reading project will ask you to **select your topic and your inspiration text**. We want you to take the time to truly read and savor your selected text.

Guidelines

- Make sure that the text represents a topic that you are truly passionate about because you will live with this topic for the entire semester. We have attached a list of books, broken down by topic, for you to peruse if necessary. You are not limited to the books on this list. Hopefully, the list will be a guide, but you are free to select your own text. All of the books on the list should be available in the NCHS Learning Commons.

This year, the Learning Commons Staff has helped put together a [Lib Guide](#) which may assist you with finding book titles that fall under a particular subject/category of interest.

- The text that you select should be nonfiction, but please **do not select a memoir**.
- The majority of the text should be written in 3rd person and contain research.
- You **MAY NOT** use a text that you have been assigned to read for ANY of your previous classes.

Process

- 1) Select the text that will form the foundation of your semester project, making sure that it presents a topic that you are passionate about and would be willing to spend a full semester exploring.
- 2) Read and annotate the book, concentrating on identifying questions that the book raises that would necessitate further research and study. Since you will spend all semester exploring this topic, you need to establish a series of in depth questions that help you to cover the full breadth of the topic. You are not required to purchase your book, but you need to make sure you take notes on your reading somewhere.
- 3) Come to the first day of class with your topic and initial research questions fleshed-out and ready to present to your peers. Bring your book with you if possible.

Notes:

1. While there is no formal piece of writing attached to this assignment, it is crucial that you engage in a deep read of your selected text. It will serve as the basis of many formative assignments geared towards getting you started with your research project.

Happy Reading!

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Recommended Nonfiction Titles Available in the LRC

For Honors Senior Rhetoric

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<u>Subject Area/Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>This book is about...</u>
<u>Animal Behavior</u>		
<i>Elephant Company</i> 940.54 CRO doctor in Burma	Vicki Croke	Elephants and their before and during
WWII <i>Faithful Elephants</i> 940.54 TSU put to death	Yukio Tsuchiya	Elephants in Tokyo zoo during WWII
<i>Kicked, Bitten & Scratched</i> 636.088 SUT	Amy Sutherland	Life and lessons at the
	world's premier	school for exotic
	animal trainers	
<u>Art</u>		
<i>Dorothea Lange and the Documentary Tradition</i> Karin Becker Ohrn photography and the 770.92 OHR		Documentary Great Depression
<i>Math and the Mona Lisa</i> 759.5 ATA and mathematic	Bulent Atalay	Examines the scientific connections in the art of Leonardo da Vinci
<i>Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling</i> 759.5 KIN years	Ross King	The story of the four Michelangelo spent
painting the Sistine		Chapel
<i>Diego Rivera</i> 759.972 HAM Diego Rivera	Pete Hamill	Biography of painter
<u>Business/Marketing/Economics</u>		
<i>\$2.00 a Day</i> 305.569 EID nothing in America	Kathryn J. Edin	Living on almost
<i>The Big Short</i> 330.973 2008	Michael Lewis	Stock market crash of
<i>Citizen Coke</i> 338.7 ELM Coca-Cola capitalism	Bartow J. Elmore	The making of
<i>Disney U</i> 658.3 LIP employees	Doug Lipp	Disney University for its

<i>Elon Musk</i> 92 MUSK VAN and SpaceX	Ashlee Vance	The man behind Tesla
<i>The Facebook Effect</i> 338.7 KIR Facebook	David Kirkpatrick	The inside story of the company
<i>Flash Boys</i> 332.6 LEW	Michael Lewis	Wall Street expose'
<i>Freakonomics</i> 330 LEV hidden side	Steven D. Levitt	Economist explains the of everything
<i>The Great Beanie Baby Bubble</i> 338.7688 BIS Beanie Baby	Zac Bissonnette	The dark side of the Craze
<i>Inside Apple</i> 338.7 LAS Apple	Adam Lashinsky	The inner-workings of
<i>How Toyota Became #1</i> 658.4 MAG largest car	David Magee	Leadership lessons from Manufacturer
<i>Planet Google</i> 338.7 STO Google	Randall Stross	Behind the scenes at
<i>Steve Jobs</i> 92 Jobs ISA	Walter Isaacson	Biography of Steve Jobs
<u>Crime/Law/ Law Enforcement</u>		
<i>Black Mass</i> 364.106 LEH FBI	Dick Lehr	Whitey Bulger vs. the
<i>Bringing Down the House</i> 364.1 MEZ Las Vegas for	Ben Mezrich	6 MIT students take \$3 million
<i>Burning Down the House</i> 365.4209 BER system	Nell Bernstein	Juvenile prison
<i>A Civil Action</i> 346.73038 HAR cancer-causing pollution	Jonathan Harr	Legal battle:
<i>Columbine</i> 373.788 CUL Columbine	Dave Cullen	A profile of the 1999 Killers
<i>Ghettoside</i> 364.152 LEO ghettos	Jill Leovy	Crime in Los Angeles'
<i>The Good Nurse</i> 364.152 GRA prolific serial killer	Charles Graeber	America's most
<i>Missoula</i> 362.88 KRA system in a	Jon Krakauer	Rape and the justice college town
<i>The New Jim Crow</i> 364.973 ALE the age of	Michelle Alexander	Mass incarceration in colorblindness

<i>Newtown</i> 371.7820 LYS shooting	Matthwe Lysiak	Newtown school
<i>No Place to Hide</i> 327.12 GRE NSA, and the U.S.	Glenn Greenwald	Edward Snowden, the surveillance state Biography of Ruth
<i>Notorious RBG</i> 92 GINSBERG CAR Bader Ginsberg	Irin Carmon	Daring heist of NASA's
<i>Sex on the Moon</i> 364.16 MEZ moon rocks	Ben Mezrich	Gruesome but
<i>Silent Witness</i> 363.2509 MCC fascinating history of	Nigel McCrery	forensic science America's most wanted the manhunt that justice
<i>Whitey Bulger</i> 92 BULGER CUL gangster and brought him to	Kevin Cullen	

Cultural Studies/Regional Studies/Anthropology

<i>The Human Age: The World Shaped by Us</i> nature and the 302 ACK	Diane Ackerman	Impact of humans on planet Families living in
<i>Behind the Beautiful Forevers</i> 305.5 BOO slums of Mumbai	Katherine Boo	How human societies
<i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> 303.4 DIA were shaped	Jared Diamond	A S. American Indian great distances
<i>Born to Run</i> 796.420 McD group who runs without rest or injury	Christopher McDougall	From the Civil War to one Lena Horne's
<i>The Black Calhouns</i> 973.0496 BUC civil rights, with family	Gail Lumet Buckley	
<u>Environment</u> <i>The Boom</i> 333.0 GOL the American changed the	Russell Gold	How fracking ignited energy revolution and world Legal battle:
<i>A Civil Action</i> 346.73038 HAR cancer-causing pollution	Jonathan Harr	Summary of today's challenges
<i>Eyes Wide Open</i> 363.7 FLE environmental	Paul Fleishchman	A look at how garbage
<i>Garbology</i> 638.4 HUM affects our	Edward Humes	

lives and what it can say about the
An Inconvenient Truth 363.73 GOR
emergency of global

can do about

Overheated 363.78 GUZ
climate change

Rust: The Longest War 620.112 WAL
damage costs

natural disasters
how it is combated

Silent Spring 363.7 CAR
that identifies

The Sixth Extinction 576.8 KOL
five

extinctions on

coming of a sixth

This Changes Everything 363.738 KLE
climate

Under the Surface 333.823 WIL
the fate of the

Unstoppable 363.738 NYE
change the world

Water 4.0 333.91 SED
future of the
resource

Food/Nutrition

Banana 634.772 KOE
changed

Chocolate 641.3378 FRY
dark secrets

treat

The Dorito Effect 641.3 SCH
and nutrition

Eating Dangerously 615.9 BOO
illnesses

Fast Food Nation 394.1 SCH
food

future

Al Gore

Andrew Guzman

Jonathan Waldman

Rachel Carson

Elizabeth Kolbert

Naomi Klein

Tom Wilbur

Bill Nye

David L. Sedlak

Dan Koeppel

Kay Frydenborg

Mark Schatzker

Michael Booth

Eric Schlosser

The planetary

warming and what we

it

The human cost of

How rust-related

more than all other
combined and

Environmental classic

risks of pesticide use
Researchers discuss the

devastating mass

Earth; predict the

Capitalism vs. the

Fracking, fortunes and

Marcellus Shale
Harnessing science to

The past, present &
world's vital

The fate of the fruit that

world

The sweet science and

of the world's favorite

Divide between flavor

Rise of food-borne

Expose on how the fast

America <i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i> 394.1 POL diets,	Michael Pollan	industry has altered Traces the origin of our particularly that of 4
foods		
<u>Health/Medicine</u>		
<i>Flu</i> 614.518 KOL of 1918	Gina Kolata	The Great Influenza Pandemic
<i>The Hot Zone</i> 614.57 PRE U.S.	Richard Preston	Deadly virus spreads to
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> farmer's cells 616 SKL tools in medicine	Rebecca Skloot	A poor Black tobacco became important
<u>History</u>		
<i>American Sphinx</i> 973.4 ELL Jefferson	Joseph Ellis	Biography of Thomas
<i>Boardwalk Empire</i> 974.9 JOH and corruption of	Nelson Johnson	The birth, high times, Atlantic City Native Americans in the
<i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i> 970.5 BRO West	Dee Brown	The 1893 World's Fair &
<i>Devil in the White City</i> 364.15 LAR a serial killer	Erik Larson	The history of the civil movement Tennessee women help
<i>Eyes on the Prize</i> 323.4 WIL rights	Juan Williams	
<i>The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold...</i> build the top-secret atomic bomb	Denise Kiernan	
<i>The Guns of August</i> 940.421 TUC <i>Hitler Youth</i> 943.086 KAT Youth program	Barbara Tuchman Michael H. Kater	The outbreak of WWI History of the Hitler
<i>Most Dangerous</i> 92 Ellsberg secret history of	Steve Sheinkin	Daniel Ellsberg and the the Vietnam War Search for a legendary
<i>Pirate Hunters</i> 940.54 KUR pirate ship	Robert Kurson	
<i>Stonewall</i> 306.76 BAU <i>Symphony for the Dead</i> 92 SHOSTAKOVICH AND the siege of	Ann Bausum M.T. Anderson	The fight for gay rights Dmitri Shostakovich and Leningrad
<u>Music/Entertainment/Media</u>		
<i>Bang Your Head</i> 781.66 KON heavy metal	David Konow	The rise and fall of
<i>Billy Joel</i> 92 JOEL FRE	Fred Schruers	Biography of Billy Joel

Death of a Dreamer 92 LENNON BEH
Lennon

Alison Behnke

Biography of John

Dirty South 782.42 WES
Soulja Boy, and the

Ben Westoff

Outkast, Lil Wayne,

reinvented

Southern rappers who

The Mockingbird Next Door 92 LEE MIL
Petty 92 PETTY ZAN

Marja Mills
Warren Zanes

hip-hop

Life with Harper Lee

Biography of Tom Petty

The Secret History of Wonder Woman
creation of 741.5973 LEP
Wonder Woman

Jill Lepore

The story behind the

Philosophy

The Power of Myth 291.13 CAM
on mythology

Joseph Campbell

J. Campbell's teachings

Politics

Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy 364.168 COL E. Gabriella Coleman
movement of hackers,

Worldwide

activists known as

pranksters, and

Oil and Honey 363.70092 MCK
Keystone pipeline

Bill McKibben

Anonymous

Activist protestor of

Wealth, Poverty & Politics 302.12 SOW
perspective of

Thomas Sowell

An international

Wealth inequality

Psychology/Social Issues

A Deadly Wandering 153.42 RIC
technology

Matt Richtel

Examines the impact of

the story of a

on our lives through

killed two

college student, who

and driving

scientists while texting

Death by Black Hole 532.8 TYS

Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Cosmic quandries

Drive: The Surprising Truth about what Motivates Us

153.1534 PIN

Daniel H. Pink

Challenges popular

misconceptions

about what actually

motivates

people

The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth 371.820 ROB

Alexandra Robbins

Popularity, why

outsiders thrive after

<i>Lights Out</i> 363.325 KOP unprepared,	Ted Koppel	High school A cyber attack, a nation and the aftermath The hidden culture of
<i>Odd Girl Out</i> 302.54 SIM aggression in girls	Rachel Simmons	
<i>Physics of the Future</i> 530 KAK century	Michio Kaku	Science in the 21st
<i>The Shallows</i> 612 CAR doing to our	Nicholas Carr	What the Internet is brains Biography of a brilliant
<i>The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace</i> young man 92 PEACE HOB the Ivy League	Jeff Hobbs	who left Newark for
<i>The South Side</i> 305.8 MOO and American	Natalie Moore	A portrait of Chicago segregation The psychology of
<i>Switch</i> 303.4 HEA change	Chip Heath	
<i>There Are No Children Here</i> 305.23 KOT growing up in	Alex Kotlowitz	The story of two boys Chicago Author details the two
<i>Thinking, Fast and Slow</i> 153.43 KAH ways people vs. slow and	Daniel Kahneman	think, fast & emotional logical New way to solve
<i>Think Like a Freak</i> 153.43 LEV problems	Steven D. Levitt	
<u>Religion</u>		
<i>Under the Banner of Heaven</i> 289.33 KRA still practicing	Jon Krakauer	Mormon communities polygamy
<u>Science</u>		
<i>Deadly Feasts</i> 616.8 RHO diseases	Richard Rhodes	Mad-cow and other
<i>Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal</i> digestive system 612.3 ROA	Mary Roach	A tour of the human
<i>How to Build a Universe</i> 520 GIL complex	Ben Gilliland	Author unravels the

cosmology		concepts of scientific
<i>Most Wanted Particle</i> 539.7095 BUT	Jon Butterworth	Inside story of the hunt for
the Higgs		
<i>The Right Stuff</i> 629.4 WOL	Tom Wolfe	bosun
moon		Man's trip to the
<i>Rise of the Rocket Girls</i> 629.40 HOL	Nathalia Holt	Women who worked
in the space		
<i>The Sixth Extinction</i> 576.8 KOL	Elizabeth Kolbert	program
mass		Prediction of the next
<i>Spare Parts</i> 338.7 DAV	Joshua Davis	extinction
robotics team		Scrappy high school
		competes against
elite universities.		
<i>Stiff</i> 611 ROA	Mary Roach	The many uses of
cadavers		
<i>What If?</i> 500 MUN	Randall Munroe	Serious scientific
answers to absurd		hypothetical questions
<u>Sports</u>		
<i>The Art of a Beautiful Game</i> 796.323 BAL	Chris Ballard	Explores the training,
mental and		
and other		physical demands, skill
		aspects of professional
basketball		
<i>The Big Fix</i> 796.334 FOR	Brett Forrest	Soccer corruption
<i>The Blind Side</i> 92 OHER LEW	Michael Lewis	The story of Michael
Oher, taken in		
by a wealthy family, and the changing role of the left tackle position in football		
<i>Born to Run</i> 796.420 McD	Christopher McDougall	A S. American Indian
group who runs		great distances
without rest or injury		
<i>Boys Among Men</i> 796.323 ABR	Jonathan Abrams	How the prep-to-pro
generation		redefined the NBA and
sparked a		
<i>Boys in the Boat</i> 797.12 BRO	Daniel Brown	basketball revolution
the		The story of 9 rowers in
		1936 Olympics

<i>Chasing Perfection</i> 796.323 GLO creating an	Andy Glockner	The high-stakes game of NBA champion Michael, Magic, Larry their Olympic
<i>Dream Team</i> 796.323 McC and Charles and basketball team	Jack McCallum	
<i>Eight Men Out</i> 796.357 ASI 1919 World	Eliot Asinof	The Black Sox and the Series
<i>Hoop Dreams</i> 796.323 JOR high school	Ben Joravsky	Follows two Chicago basketball players Billie Beane's 2002
<i>Moneyball</i> 796.357 LEW Oakland A's	Michael Lewis	
<i>Muck City</i> 796.332 MEA football's	Bryan Mealer	Winning and losing in forgotten town Secrets of
<i>Natural Born Heroes</i> 796.40 McD Mediterranean athletes	Christopher McDougall	
<i>Scorecasting</i> 796 MOS behind how won	Tobias J. Moskowitz	The hidden influences sports are played and
<i>The System</i> 796.332 BEN big-time	Jeff Benedict	Glory and scandal of college football Lance Armstrong and
<i>Wheelmen</i> 92 ARMSTRONG ALB the doping	Reed Albergotti	scandal De la Salle football longest winning streak
<i>When the Game Stands Tall</i> 795.332 HAY team with	Neil Hayes	
<u>Technology/Engineering</u>		
<i>Frankenstein's Cat</i> 664 ANT beasts	Emily Anthes	Biotech's brave new
<i>The Innovators</i> 920 ISA geniuses digital	Walter Isaacson	How a group of hackers, and geeks created the revolution
<i>Stuxnet: Countdown to Zero Day</i> 364.1 ZET destroy Iran's	Kim Zetter	How virus was used to nuclear centrifuges

War/Military

<i>Black Hawk Down</i> 967.7305 BOW behind enemy lines	Mark Bowden	99 soldiers trapped in Somalia in the Gulf War
<i>The Finish</i> 958.1047 BOW Osama bin	Mark Bowden	The hunt and defeat of Laden
<i>Flags of our Fathers</i> 940.54 BRA men in the	James Bradley	The stories of the young famous Iwo Jima sculpture
<i>Ghost Soldiers</i> 940.54 SID the Philippines	Hampton Sides	WWII rescue mission in
<i>In the Garden of the Beasts</i> 943.086 LAR in 1930's Berlin	Erik Larson	American ambassador
<i>The Rape of Nanking</i> 951.04 CHA	Iris Chang	WWII Japan
<i>Shadow Divers</i> 940.54 KUR recovering a WWII	Robert Kurson	Adventure of divers
<i>Soldier Girls</i> 956.7044 THO women at home	Helen Thorpe	German U-boat The battles of three and at war
<i>Unbroken</i> 940.54 HIL survives plane crash	Laura Hillenbrand	Olympic athlete and Japanese POW
camp		
<i>We Wish to Inform You...</i> 364.15 GOU genocide	Philip Gourevitch	Stories about Rwanda's
<i>The Zookeeper's Wife</i> 940.53 ACK harbor 300 Jewish	Diane Ackerman	Christian zookeepers Refugees in a Warsaw zoo
<u>World Issues</u>		
<i>ISIS Apocalypse</i> 363.325 MCC state	William Faizi McCants	History of the Islamic
<i>ISIS: The State of Terror</i> 363.325 STE of the Islamic	Jessica Stern	Genesis and evolution State
<i>The Underground Girls of Kabul</i> 305.3 NOR up a girl in	Jenny Nordberg	What it means to grow Afghanistan
<i>Wave of Destruction</i> 959.304 KRA Thailand tsunami	Erich Krauss	Four families and the