

Naperville Central Communication Arts | Summer Reading Assignment

Honors English 2: Journalism

To prepare yourself for Honors English 2: Journalism, please acquire copies of both of the following books:

1. ***The Fiddler in the Subway: The Story of the World-Class Violinist Who Played For Handouts...and Other Virtuoso Performances by America's Foremost Feature Writer*** by Gene Weingarten, 2010 (roughly \$14 for paperback)

2. ***The Elements of Journalism: What Newspapers Should Know and the Public Should Expect, Revised and Updated 4th Edition*** by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosensteel, 2021 (roughly \$13 for paperback...make sure to get the correct edition with BLUE on the cover!)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR *FIDDLER IN THE SUBWAY*

Fiddler in the Subway is a collection of 20 stories told by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post reporter and feature writer Gene Weingarten. Each chapter is a different story. All of them were originally published in The Washington Post between 1993 and 2009, so you'll read several pieces that are tied to significant news events at the time they were written, and some stories deal with serious topics covered daily in the news. The subjects of the stories range from presidents to ordinary citizens. Read the entire book. You will come across cultural references you don't know and names you don't recognize. That's okay. If you would like some context, do some Google searches or ask your parents about them.

While you are reading, please annotate for the following:

- Underline, circle, or otherwise mark all words that you don't know so that later, you can create your own list of **vocabulary** words.
- Highlight, post-it note, or otherwise bookmark any favorite sentences or quotes, **moments of personal insight/resonance**, or "a-ha moments" you had while reading. What are some life lessons you learned from reading? What was beautifully written?
- **Select your three favorite stories from the book**, the ones that stuck with you the most or spoke to you as a reader in terms of their ability to provide you with a greater understanding of some aspect of what it means to be human. In other words, which stories most deeply captured your interest or most clearly taught you some lesson? Be prepared to discuss the stories you selected during the first few days of class in August.
- **Contemplate and be prepared to discuss an answer to the following three questions.** You can prepare your answers either by making notes in your book, marking relevant sections, or writing a journal-style entry or bullet-point list of notes to help you remember ideas and be able to discuss them in class.
 1. **How do events that occurred from 1993—2009 predict, inform, or relate to issues our society is dealing with today? (In other words, how are they still relevant?)**
 2. **How do the stories of others make us as readers into more tolerant human beings?**
 3. **What did you learn about being a journalist from Weingarten's pieces and from the notes he provides to readers to set up each piece?**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR *THE ELEMENTS OF JOURNALISM*

This text, called “one of the most important books on media ever written,” has been revised and updated several times, so it’s important that you read the 4th edition (as mentioned above), which has a blue stripe behind the book’s title on the cover and contains information that won’t be in earlier editions. Read and annotate the preface, introduction and first chapter of the book over the summer. This will provide you with an overview of the authors’ 10 “elements of journalism,” which are each detailed in the book’s remaining chapters, as well as a broad look at some of the concepts we will explore further during our time together. **You do not need to read past the end of Chapter 1 (page 41) this summer;** you’ll be assigned additional chapters from the book later in the school year. (For this reason, it’s recommended that you purchase this book!)

Be prepared to discuss the question that serves as the title of the book’s first chapter:
What is journalism for?

Please bring these books and any reading notes to the first day of class! You will need them for both class discussion and your first assignment. If you have questions while working on your assignment, you can contact Mr. Carlson at kcarlson@naperville203.org. Please understand that a response might take a few days due to summer schedules.

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Communication Arts teacher and faculty adviser to the *Central Times*