



Harlan High School

SUMMER READING English II 2025-2026

Welcome to English II! This class will focus largely on a reading and writing analysis, which examines the choices authors use to influence their audience and achieve their purpose.

Thus, with an eye toward eventual rhetorical analysis, students enrolled in English II are expected to choose TWO (2) personal narratives from the list below to read and analyze over the summer.

For your summer reading you have been asked to choose TWO (2) of the following personal narratives to read and analyze. The narratives were written for a New York Times competition and were all written by students just like you! They are excellent short, well-thought-out, narrative examples that we would like you to be prepared to analyze and imitate in our English 2 class this upcoming year. **Do your best to follow the instructions and annotate the passages in preparation for our first unit. You must also complete the attached graphic organizer for ONE of the stories you selected. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the graphic organizer. You must make a copy of the graphic organizer in order to edit and complete it.**

Notes and annotations can be especially helpful when studying a piece. It involves marking aspects of the text that you find important or influential, and making comments for yourself in order to remember why you marked what you did. Although your notes and annotations will not be graded, they will help you prepare to perform an in depth analysis over your chosen personal narrative, as it is easier to relocate choices the author uses when you can simply read back over your comments to yourself, rather than reviewing the entire personal narrative.

Reading from this list will prepare you for:

- ☐ reading and analyzing the effect of the narrative voice on the text
- ☐ determining the rhetorical situation (persona, audience, purpose, and exigence)
- ☐ analyzing specific rhetorical choices (tools/strategies/techniques) the author uses
- ☐ performing a rhetorical analysis over the personal narrative that will incorporate specifically quoted rhetorical choices and analyze the effect of those choices on audience and purpose
- ☐ responding to your reading in a variety of ways to include evidence-based discussions and written responses
- ☐ experimenting with incorporating an anecdote in informative writing

Personal Narrative Choices

(please select only ONE personal narrative)

Recognizing that English II is a high school course and our reading features mature content, be sure to personally research the choices below before selecting the one you'd prefer to read and study.

["Nothing Extraordinary" by Jeniffer Kim](#)

["Pants on Fire" by Varya Kluev](#)

["Eggs and Sausage" by Ryan Young Kim](#)

["First Impressions" by Isabel Hui](#)

["Cracks in the Pavement" by Adam Sanders](#)

["Sorry, Wrong Number" by Michelle Ahn](#)

["Speechless" Maria Fernanda Benavides](#)

["The Man Box" Gordon Lewis](#)

For further information:

Please contact Miss Perry at Gabrielle.Perry@nisd.net. During the summer, Miss Perry will usually respond to emails within one week's time.