



Northside ISD Curriculum & Instruction BRANDEIS English IV Honors/Dual Credit Summer Reading

In anticipation of your participation in an Honors / Dual Credit English course, I ask that you read or engage with at least **ONE** nonfiction text this summer about writing. There is no additional assignment beyond reading and being ready to academically engage with your book when school starts.

I do, however, ask that you (and your parents) take care in selecting your novel or alternate media presentation, and vet it for language/content before committing to a title. The novel marked by an asterisk indicates it is on the Northside approved book list.

If you have any questions about your English IV Dual Credit summer reading, please contact Ms. Rachel Gray-Castro at Rachel.Gray-Castro@nisd.net or Ms. Sasha Jaramillo at Sasha.Jaramillo@nisd.net.

Writing About Writing

1. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King
2. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott
3. *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser*
4. *The Writing Life* by Annie Dillard
5. *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White

* Indicates vetted, approved titles from the NISD English I-IV Approved Reading List

Alternate Media about Writing

1. Listen to the [Interview by George Plimpton of Maya Angelou](#) (nothing to watch, just audio)
2. Article from 2017, "[I Talked to 150 Writers and Here's the Best Advice They Had](#)" by Joe Fassler
3. Read [this lecture by author Zadie Smith](#) to Columbia University writing student in 2008
4. Watch Chimamanda Adichie's 2009 TED Talk "[The Danger of Single Story](#)"
5. Read the [article on Alison Bechdel's webcomic & writing](#) or listen to [the interview](#)

Guiding questions for each of the above media can be found at [this link](#) (be sure you're logged into your NISD account to access).

To prepare for class discussion, you may want to take notes on the questions that apply to your reading and your opinion.

1. What does the author assume you already know?
2. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this reading?
3. Has reading this selection changed your opinion of a certain person or topic? If so, how?
4. Does the author present information in a way that is interesting and insightful, and if so, how do they achieve this?
5. If the author is writing on a debatable issue, do they give proper consideration to all sides of the debate? Do they seem to have a bias?
6. How has the reading increased your interest in the subject matter?
7. What questions do you have after finishing the reading?