

ROSATI-KAIN HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT—INCOMING FRESHMEN
SUMMER READING/WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Part 1. Listed below are several classic novels and others which tell about people who have overcome great obstacles in their lives. We ask that during the summer before you begin your freshman year you would read one of the books from the list below, and write a five-paragraph essay about the book.

The first paragraph should contain the book's title and author, a BRIEF (no more than three or four sentences) summary of the book, and this first paragraph will conclude with the thesis sentence. Paragraphs two, three and four should each give one reason to support your thesis, and should use incidents and quotes from the book to support your reasons. The fifth paragraph will restate the thesis statement and come to a conclusion.

Sample thesis statements:

In *Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank changes during her stay in the Secret Annex because of the problems she had to face.

-or-

In *Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank shows great insight into human nature.

-or-

Mr. Braithwaite earns the respect of his students in E. R. Braithwaite's *To Sir, with Love* by showing respect for them.

-or-

In Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*, Edward and Tom learn to see life from each other's point of view.

There is no one answer or "right topic." You may develop any topic you wish by using examples from the book to support your topic sentence.

Novels from which you may choose: Twain, Mark. *The Prince and the Pauper*

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl*

Braithwaite, E.R. *To Sir with Love*

Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*

Part 2.

Read a two- to three-page article of national or international news from *TIME*, *Newsweek*, or *U.S. News and World Report*, and then do the following:

- 1) Write a one-paragraph summary of the article in which you include the name of the magazine, the title of the article, and the author, if possible. (For example, what does the article say about the problems with handguns in the U.S.?)
- 2) On a separate sheet, develop a thesis statement (your opinion which you'll support with facts from the news article) from which you will write a five-paragraph essay. For example, your thesis might be something like "Handguns should be outlawed in the United States." Your reasons could be "because too many criminals have access to guns," "too many children are harmed by handguns each year," and "handguns can cause a simple argument to escalate into a shooting."
 - The first paragraph of the essay (don't forget to include the name of the magazine, the title of the article, and the author's name) will be an introduction to your topic, and will end with your thesis statement.
 - The second, third, and fourth paragraphs will each contain a reason to support your thesis statement, and examples and quotes from the news article to support your reason.
 - The final paragraph of the essay should restate your thesis in the first sentence, and then wrap up your essay.

Please use only first- or third-person pronouns—do not use "you," "your," "yours," or "yourself."

