

## ***Rising 12th Grade Summer Assignment 2020***

“I know where I’m going and I know the truth, and I don’t have to be what you want me to be. I’m free to be what I want.” -Muhammad Ali

Now that you are a senior, it is time to revisit and reflect on your identity. Who are you? Who are you to yourself? Who are you to the world around you? Who are you to the colleges and the jobs that you are applying to? The assignments you will complete over the summer will help you understand what identity means and its importance to you and the world around you.

*PPAS has had a long tradition of asking students to complete a summer assignment in the Humanities. In view of everything going on in the world and the difficulties and challenges of this term, we recognize this has been a difficult time for everyone. Therefore, as the upper grade teachers of Humanities we have decided to make the summer assignment a bonus. While we encourage everyone to complete the assignment, we want to offer flexibility for those of you who want to opt out.*

*The purpose of the summer assignment is to continue your education through the summer months. In the 12th grade the summer assignment will help you begin the college application process in brainstorming personal essays and teach you how to budget a monthly income.*

### **Formatting Guidelines for Written Work**

- **Type all work:** use Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced
- Must include a proper heading
- Must include a creative, catchy and revealing title
- Your last name and page number must appear on the top right-hand corner of each page (other than on the first page). For example, on page 2 of your assignment it should say: Smith, 2
- Neatly assemble and staple your assignments
- Back up your work electronically, as well as in hard copy. Recommended methods for backing up work include making extra copies and keeping them in separate locations; storing files on flash drives; saving to Google Docs; emailing files to yourself
- Proofread your work and run all work through a spellcheck and grammar check before turning in the final copy. N.B. We encourage you to obtain a copy of *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White, and to use it to revise your work.

## Grading Rubric

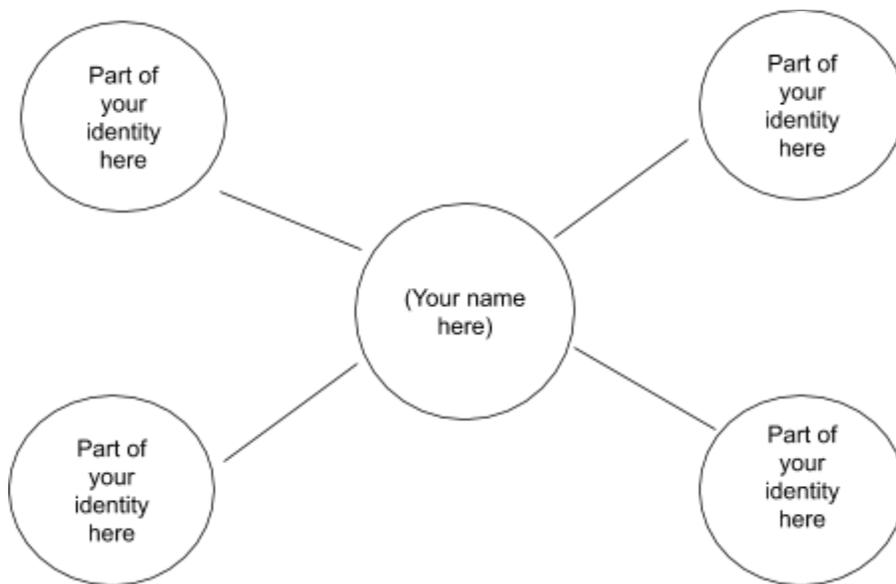
<b><u>Exemplary</u></b>	<b><u>Proficient</u></b>	<b><u>Developing</u></b>	<b><u>Beginning</u></b>
All assignments are correctly formatted and completed, with no spelling and grammatical errors. Written work demonstrates mastery in academic language and writing.	Most assignments are correctly formatted and completed, with few to no spelling and grammatical errors. Written work is proficient in academic language and writing.	Student attempted most assignments, but work may not be formatted correctly or typed. Written work is progressing towards proficient, but may need extra support or revision.	Needs a great deal of work and support to complete work independently.

### **Part 1: Summer Reading**

#### **Task 1a: Identity Chart**

Create an identity chart for yourself. You are encouraged to create your identity chart on a poster. Creativity, such as using a combination of words and images that represent your identity, is also encouraged.

#### **Example of Identity Chart**



## **Task 1b:** Choose and read a Summer Reading Book

You will be required to read **1 of the 5** choices of books, below. We do encourage you to read more than the one required book, however, as they will all serve as a basis for ideas and discussion throughout the school year.

- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *What is the What* by Dave Eggers
- *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Southland* by Nina Revoyr

**Task 1c:** Written Response: after you have read, think about the following question....

### ***What forms our identity?***

....and, in a thesis essay, answer the above question:

Essay Requirements:

- Support your claims of what forms our identity from your book of choice, using evidence and analysis to create and extend your own definition of identity.

## **Part 2: Life after PPAS**

### **Task 2a: Student Self-Assessment For College Recommendations**

This form will assist all your teachers in writing your recommendation. The more specific details you can provide, the more thorough your college recommendation will be. In addition to the college application process, this form will also be an asset to you in the job application process (interviews, creating resumes, etc.) Consider your answers to these questions carefully, and **type your thorough answers on a separate document**. When you meet with teachers to discuss your recommendation, bring this form with you.

- 1) School activities: List the activities in which you have participated, the number of years and the amount of time per week you spent on each, and what you have gained or learned from each activity. Consider artistic, athletic, literary, community service, and leadership positions.
- 2) What do you consider your most important activities ***outside of school?*** List jobs, paid or voluntary; religious activities; hobbies; travel; music; art; and drama. Include the number of years of your involvement and the amount of time you spent on the activity weekly, and explain why this activity was significant to you.
- 3) In or out of school, which awards and honors have you received? Which elected offices have you held?
- 4) What kind of learner are you (visual, auditory, kinesthetic)? What sort of academic setting and what kind of academic assignments make you thrive? What interests you?

- 5) List your three most distinguishing or most admirable qualities. Explain why for each.
- 6) What do you hope to accomplish in college, and after? Consider your career goals, your broader goals and your values.
- 7) What do you plan to major in? If undecided, what do you think will be your eventual major?
- 8) What colleges are you, at this point, planning to apply to?

**Task 2b: Transition from Childhood to Adulthood**

In preparation for the eventual writing of your college essay after the summer, brainstorm events that have marked your transition from childhood to adulthood. That is, events that have had a significant impact on your life (think about who you were before these important events, and ways you changed, or were different, after). The common app may ask about how COVID impacted you. This will form the basis of your college essay.

Now read the options in the below boxes. You have the choice of a written response, a visual creation or a performance piece. Choose ONE of those options. Then....

1. Write an artist’s statement; that is, a statement that introduces your audience to the 3 to 5 events you will be writing about, illustrating, or performing.
2. Develop your written response, visual creation or performance piece that tells or illustrates these 3 to 5 life-changing events, and how you have changed as a result.
3. Write a conclusion that synthesizes (combines) what you have learned/how you have changed as a person, as a result of having gone through these experiences.

The two statements (introduction and conclusion) must be typed, using correct grammar and spelling. The introduction must be a minimum of a half a page; the conclusion at least one page. Use the formatting guidelines on page 1.

<p>Written Response: In paragraph form, describe three to five life-changing events, detailing the change from before and after the event- that is, what changed and why?</p>	<p>Visual Creation: Create a collage of at least three to five events that detail the change from before and after event- you may use magazines, printouts, family pictures, etc..</p>	<p>Performance Piece: Use your craft- write a script, poem, or song, about three to five life changing events in your life...</p>
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**Task 2c: College Essay Topics**

The following essay questions are important for you to think about and respond to. Please answer each question to the best of your ability. You may write paragraphs with complete sentences or, alternatively, you may bullet your responses.

1. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
2. Describe a problem you’ve solved or a problem you’d like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma- anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

3. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
4. Describe a piece of art, performance, or speech that resonated with you. Explain why it was so powerful.

### **Part 3 Budget for life:**

In addition to thinking about your identity and who you are it is imperative that you begin to think about adult responsibilities such as budgeting. This final part of your summer assignment will allow you to experience what it would be like to be on your own when you are in college or working. The ultimate goal of this assignment is to understand the importance of budgeting and how that impacts your life.

We **recommend** you read Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America written by Barbara Ehrenreich. This book, is about trying to “get by” on a minimum wage job, which is the basis of the budget portfolio. It is available on Amazon & Kindle and in libraries & on tape (if you would prefer to listen).

*\*This book, interesting and informative as it is, is highly recommended but is not a requirement of the summer assignment\**

### **Budget Simulation**

In order to learn how to budget you will simulate (pretend) to have an adult life for one month. Below is your pay, broken down so that you can see the expenses automatically deducted from your paycheck:

#### **Paycheck for Minimum Wage 40 hour week @ 9.00 per hour<sup>1</sup>**

**Weekly Gross Pay \$360**  
**Federal Withholding \$38.59**  
**Social Security \$22.32**  
**Medicare \$5.22**  
**New York \$8.98**  
**NY SDI \$0.60**  
**Net Pay \$284.29**

Therefore, you will take home approximate \$284.29 (net pay) per week. Most months are not exactly 4 weeks. But, for the purposes of this simulation we are going to say that each month is 4 weeks. As a result your net pay and starting balance per month is approximately **\$1, 140** to spend per month

#### **Task 3a: Finding a Place to Live**

**Rent:** Research the cost of rent in New York City (this includes Manhattan and all outer boroughs). If you want an apartment in Manhattan, you may be able to find a studio for about \$1200. Remember that these rents are low because they often are for tiny places in inconvenient locations, are in poor condition, and do not have full amenities such as full kitchens or laundry rooms. Since your take home pay for the month is \$1,140, you will not be able to afford a studio and YOU WILL HAVE to get a roommate in a one-bedroom (landlords will not rent to two in a studio). Someone will sleep in the living room. The CHEAPEST average cost, assuming you find one in the outer boroughs is \$975.00.

**When you have chosen your apartment, write down your rent in your Budget Chart on page 8.**

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<sup>1</sup> You can change this to current times and update on minimum wage of \$15/hr



**Step #2:** Determine the necessary household items you will need to purchase for the month. For example, will you need shampoo, cleaning products, toothpaste? You will also need to think about transportation, cable and internet, etc. Refer to the descriptions of household items below to determine what kind of items fall into each category. Enter all your items, the individual cost of each item and the total monthly costs of these items in the Household Items Chart below.

After you have completed the Household Items Chart, record the ‘Total Monthly Cost of Item(s)’ for transportation, laundry, phone, internet & cable, personal grooming and entertainment in the BUDGET CHART on page 8.

Household Items Description

**Transportation:** Find out the cost of a monthly metrocard pass.

**Laundry:** Find out the cost of soap and cost of using the washing machine and dryers at your local laundromat

**Phone:** Will you be using a cell phone? Find the best plan for your needs and do not forget about taxes

**Cable & Internet:** What kind of cable package will you have? Will you choose to not have cable? Will you have internet? Find the best cable & internet plan for you.

**Personal Grooming:** What kind of shampoo will you get? Are you going to nail salons weekly? How often will you get your haircut? Determine the costs of all these personal grooming expenses.

**Entertainment:** How much money on you going to spend on entertainment? Will you be buying a lot video games? Will you be going out at all—eating out, going to movies, museums, going to see Drake concerts etc.? Determine the costs of anything related to entertainment that you plan to buy or attend for this month.

\*\*Gas and electric is typically a household expense. But for the purposes of this assignment we will assume gas and electric is included in your rent. Usually it is not and you would have to pay between \$45 and \$120 per month for gas and electricity, depending on season.\*\*

**\*\*If there is not enough space on this chart, you must recreate this chart on a separate sheet of paper.\*\***

**Household Items Chart**

	Name and amount of each item(s)	Individual Cost of Item(s)	Total Monthly Cost of Item(s)
Transportation			
Laundry			
Phone			
Cable & Internet			
Personal Grooming			
Entertainment			

