



## English III and English III AP Summer Reading Assignment

### Overview:

This summer, as you take some well-deserved time to relax and enjoy the sun, take time – also – to read *Little Brother*, an award winning novel by Cory Doctorow. We think you will find the novel to be provocative and unconventional, as you engage in these current issues taking place all around you.

### Summer Reading Assignment:

For this novel, each student will be responsible for the following:

1. A critical journal that includes both direct quotes and visual representation of the material engaged
2. A formal essay that addresses one of the prompts provided.

The summer reading assignment is due the first full day of August classes and 10% will be deducted for each day it is late, including weekends. This assignment, itself, will make up a significant portion of your quarter 1 grade. Each student will submit *one* journal or portfolio that includes the essay at the back.

*The Critical Journal.* For every two chapters of *Little Brother*, including the epilogue and afterward, you should select at least three quotes that you feel are significant to understanding the author's theme or purpose. It can reveal something about a character; it can speak of a symbol; it can connect something in the novel to something you believe, politically; it can be your reaction to an event or incident. Your response is your response. After selecting your quotes, you should jot a few words about it. While they need not be complete sentences; your response should be critical in that it shows good engagement with the quote.

Following your selection of the quotes and understanding of the two chapters, you should create a visual representation of those two chapters and include the whole of those visual representations in a portfolio or scrapbook. Each page of your portfolio should include the visual that represents the two chapters' main idea/content as well as the quotes and your responses to those quotes, somewhere on the page including the back. This journal is not only a visual summary and response to the text, it is your chance to show your creative talents. Remember, one page for every two chapters. Your scrapbook/portfolio will have 10-12 pages, total.

*The Formal Essay.* At the end of your critical journal, you should include the formal essay. You can simply paper clip it to the last page or include it in a sheet protector. The formal essay should include a typed formal outline of the essay (thesis, claims, evidence), a first draft that shows evidence of self-editing, and a final draft to be graded. You have a choice of the following prompts, depending on what class you are taking next year. Students of English III may answer either question; students of English IIIAP must answer the AP question.

### English III:

There has been question in the news, recently, surrounding the issue of internet censorship. Proponents of internet censorship, in some countries, argue that the population needs to be “protected” from information that could lead to the questioning of the government. Those rallying against internet censorship claim that freedom to information is pivotal in our understanding of basic human rights. After reading *Little Brother*, consider Cory Doctorow’s position on such censorship. Then, in a well-developed argument, write what you believe Doctorow’s position on the matter is (thesis). Your claims should consider the characters or events Doctorow portrays to support the thesis while your textual evidence should address the specific details of those characters or events. You should aim for *at least* three evidences though you should use however many you need to prove your point. Your evidence can be made up of direct quotes, paraphrased events or descriptions, or – the best option – a mix, where appropriate. All evidence should be cited according to MLA format and include a properly formatted “Works Cited” page.

### English III AP:

*Little Brother* addresses a lot of issues and themes relating to and conflicting with the technological revolution, the perseverance of personal freedom, and the right to (and practicality of) privacy. Reflecting on a specific character, situation, or event in the novel, find a current news article that you find to be particularly relevant. Read that article and print it out, ensuring that the date of access appears on the bottom of the printout. The news event should have taken place between May 30 and August 12 of this year though it can be accessed and printed at any time. Following your reading of the news article, develop an argument that compares or synthesizes your current event to the issue portrayed in *Little Brother*. Your thesis should discuss *the connection* between the two texts while your internal arguments (claims) discuss how both sources (text and current event) speak to the issue or situation at hand. Try to avoid discussing one text per paragraph. Instead, think of a structure where you might discuss both texts in each paragraph. Your evidence can be made up of direct quotes, paraphrased events or descriptions, or – the best option – a mix, where appropriate. Conclude your essay with a reflection communicating your idea on the topic. Given that this is your concluding paragraph, this is your opportunity to communicate your informed opinion on the issue at hand, as it relates to your thesis. All evidence should be cited according to MLA format and include a properly formatted “Works Cited” page.

*\*A final note on summer reading. Remember that the goal of summer reading is for you to continue in your reading and critical analysis skills. That said, we are interested in your thoughts and your ideas – not the ideas of other sources you may find on the internet or ideas you might plagiarize from other people or texts. Consider that you will be assessed on creativity and originality; so work, individually, on these projects. We know each of you will yield great results.*