



Dr. David Marmor, Principal

Ms. Carrie Huggins, Assistant Principal of English

FLHS English Language Arts Summer Assignment For students entering Grade 9 (in Fall 2020)

Visit <http://www.francislewishs.org> and <http://www.francislewisenglish.com/summer.html>

The 9th Grade Francis Lewis High School summer reading and writing assignment has been designed to provide students with the opportunity to further develop their reading and writing skills during the summer months, to promote college and career readiness, and to help prepare students for the 9th Grade English Curriculum. The assignment provides choices of texts appropriate to the grade level that students will be entering in the fall and promotes college and career readiness. Students will write a Text-Analysis Response (one of the two writing tasks for the English Regents tasks and respond to a modified *Common Application* Personal Statement prompt.

1. Read **one** short story from the list provided for English Language Arts (see below). You may find the stories online or visit [the FLHS English website](#) for the PDF files of the short stories.
2. Write a Text-Analysis Response, based upon your selected short story, following the directions provided (see below).
3. Write a well-developed paragraph responding to the *Common Application* essay prompt provided (see below).

***Both of your writing pieces should be typed and saved – preferably as a Google Doc or a Word Doc.*

Submit your work (the Text Analysis Response and the *Common Application* response) to your ELA teacher during the first week of class (be prepared to share this work virtually if you are asked to do so). The writing pieces will count as your first homework grades for the fall semester.

Assignment Guidelines and Requirements

- All work must be your own. Do not plagiarize. You will not receive credit for the assignment if your work is copied from any source.
- The Text Analysis Response must be based on the short story you read from the choices below. This assignment is one of two required written responses for the English Language Arts Regents.
- The paragraph responding to the *Common Application* essay prompts is a modified Personal Statement. The Personal Statement is the essay students write and submit for their college applications. The *Common Application* is a portal through which students submit their essays when applying for college.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please email the Assistant Principal of English, Carrie Huggins: chuggins@schools.nyc.gov

Directions for the Text-Analysis Response:

Your Task: Closely read one of the short stories above and write a well-developed, text-based response of three paragraphs. In your response, identify a central idea in the short story and analyze how the author's use of *one* writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) develops this central idea. Use strong and thorough evidence from the short story to support your analysis. Do *not* simply summarize the text.

Central Idea: The **central idea** is the **central**, unifying idea of the story, which ties together all of the other elements used by the author to tell the story. The **central idea** can be best described as a universal truth found in the story.

Guidelines: Use these guidelines when writing your Text-Analysis Response.

Be sure to:

- Identify a central idea in the short story
- Analyze how the author's use of *one* writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) develops this central idea. Examples include: characterization, conflict, denotation/connotation, metaphor, simile, irony, language use, point-of-view, setting, structure, symbolism, theme, tone, etc.
- Use strong and thorough evidence from the short story to support your analysis
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

Short story choices:

- "Thank You, Ma'am" by Langston Hughes
or
- "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber
or
- "Mother and Daughter" by Gary Soto

Directions for the Common Application response:

Your Task: Write one well-developed paragraph (7-10 sentences) answering the prompt below:

Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?