

“And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”

–Paulo Coelho

SUMMER READING PROJECT

ENGLISH I Pre-AP:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Write a multi-paragraph creative essay mapping your own possible personal legend. Do this either as a personal narrative or retell your journey in the form of a superhero story. Compare part of Santiago’s journey in The Alchemist to *your* journey and personal legend.

Questions to consider answering through the essay:

- What have you learned from Santiago’s journey?
- What is the result of not chasing your personal legend?
- Do you see ambition positively or negatively? Why?
- What tasks have you already fulfilled or shied away from at this point?
- What can you do to accomplish the next steps/ goals along your personal legend or life journey?

Essay guidelines:

- 1) This is a personal essay, NOT an expository or STAAR-type essay, so feel free to think outside the box in terms of space allotment (NO CD, CM or Jane Schaffer Method—LOL!). *Essays should be 2 pages MINIMUM and 4 pages MAXIMUM.*
- 2) Organization is important, so consider how you want to develop your essay (chronologically, cause-and-effect, compare-and-contrast, etc.); remember, this should be MULTI-paragraph essay!
- 3) Please type your essays using Times New Roman 12 Font, and double-space your document (set your document to 2.0 paragraph spacing).
- 4) And most of all, enjoy this writing journey...it’ll be good for manifesting your destiny. 😊

Rubric for ENG I Summer Reading Personal Essay:
Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist

Distinguished (D)= 95-100...this work is Pre-AP-caliber writing with minimal need to revise/ edit. There is real depth of thought evident in the student's writing, organization, and purpose.

Advanced (A)= 85...this work provides solid evidence of critical thinking and understanding; there is some room for deeper reflection/ analysis, elaboration, clarification, revising, and editing for errors.

Minimum (M)=75...this work provides a basic understanding of the task/ goal; however, the student could benefit from some one-one-one teacher support/ conferencing to ensure that more growth, learning, and review will lead the student to more Advanced/ Distinguished work. Typically, this work is very basic in terms of addressing the writing purpose; in addition, errors in writing (grammar/ usage) may be too frequent.

Below Standards (BS)=65 and below...this work does not meet minimal expectations for a passing score. Usually, this is due to incompleteness, misunderstanding of the assigned task, or lack of depth in addressing the writing purpose. These assignments are often filled with writing and grammatical errors that require special one-on-one attention by the teacher and student.

******Note: Teacher may use the "+" sign to add five points to the grade or the "-" sign to subtract 5 points to the final grade. (ex: A+=90; M-=70)***

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