



In preparation for your senior year, your summer English assignments involve filling out a college application, reading, and writing.

1. Complete the common college application by the first day of class<sup>1</sup>. Everything pertaining to you and your family should be filled out—names, addresses, schools attended, name of guidance counselor, etc.  
You must also have completed a typed first draft of your college application essay. Go to the common application essay prompts link below, and choose one of the prompts.  
NOTE: Even if you are applying to schools that do not use the common college application or Apply Texas application, you must still fill out the common college application. Doing so will give you the opportunity to gather in one place information that you will be using on any application.
  - You can download a copy of the common college application at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - For essay topics, go to [www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-announces-2016-2017-essay-prompts](http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-announces-2016-2017-essay-prompts)
  - This is a graded assignment worth 50 points. Bring your typed essay along with a printed out copy of your online application with you to the first English class.
2. Read and annotate<sup>2</sup> the novel *1984* by George Orwell. You will have a test on this during the first weeks of school.
3. Read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. Then write a personal response to this book. If you liked the book, explain why; if you didn't like the book, explain why. Use specific examples from the text to support your comments. Your response should be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, properly proofread, and approximately one page in length. Do not go over one page. This is a graded assignment worth 50 points.

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<sup>1</sup> If you are **only** applying to Texas schools, you may fill out the Apply Texas application instead of the common college application. This can be found at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)

Though not all Texas schools require essays, you must still write one for this summer assignment. See this link for sample topics. [https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/html/preview16/frs\\_essay.html](https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/html/preview16/frs_essay.html)

You may also write your essay using one of the Common Application essay prompts.

<sup>2</sup> To *annotate* a text means to take notes on the pages of a text while reading. It is a way of engaging with and entering into an author's art and ideas. The goal is to have a rich, satisfying, and thought-provoking reading experience.

To annotate wells means to *thoughtfully* and *frequently* do the following as you read:

- underline and/or star key sentences (thesis statements, important topic sentences of sections, etc.)
- circle and define any words that you do not know yet
- note transitions to help you map out the structure of the book's flow
- ask questions in the margins
- make comments about your own thoughts about / reactions to the text
- speculate on the book's theme as you go
- write bullet summary of what happened at end of each chapter.