Welcome to Lane Tech English I! To prepare for the year ahead, you will read one novel and write a five-paragraph essay over the summer. This must be completed on a Google Document for the first day of classes. Your teacher will decide if he or she would like a written copy as well.

The instructions and grading rubric can be found below.

Step 1: Choose one of the texts below to read and analyze for your summer reading assignment. The books can be purchased used or new online at Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles, other bookstores, or they can be borrowed from your local library. We recommend using the ISBN #s to have consistent versions of the novels.

1. *Flowers for Algernon* (full novel) by Daniel Keyes - An inspiring novel told through the eyes and words of a mentally disabled man, the book explores the issues of intelligence, emotion and the way in which the human mind is able to shape the way we view the world and the people within it. ISBN-13: 978-0151001637

2. *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng - A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, *Everything I Never Told You* is a gripping page-turner, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another. ISBN-13: 978-0143127550

3. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz - Set in El Paso, Texas in 1987, the novel follows two Mexican-American boys, their friendship, and their struggles with racial and ethnic identity, sexuality, and family relationships. Since its publication, the novel has received near-universal critical acclaim and numerous accolades. ISBN-13: 978-1442408937

Step 2: Read the book you chose and enjoy it! You will be most able to enjoy your book if you read it over the course of two weeks. Remember that reading is like watching a good T.V. series: if you want to connect with the characters and the conflict, you cannot take too many breaks between episodes; otherwise, you’ll forget important details and lose interest.

Step 3: Look at the attached list of literary topics on the next page and identify one that best fits the topic you think the book is trying to address. You may also create your own. Then, compose your essay according to the guidelines below, staying focused on proving the thematic focus you selected.

A. Use the topic you chose to develop a one sentence thematic statement that argues what you believe the author is specifically trying to convey about the topic. This will function as your introduction. The rest of the essay will prove the validity of your statement through textual evidence and analysis.

   Thematic Statement: The opinion the author is conveying about a particular topic. This is an arguable point you will prove.

   **Example:** Book: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
   Topic: Freedom
   Theme: In the novel *The Hunger Games*, the author, Suzanne Collins, conveys that people will fight for their freedom because they have come to understand the value of it.

B. Compose three body paragraphs that prove and support your thematic statement. Each paragraph must include:

   - Topic sentence (first sentence) that conveys the point you will prove in the paragraph (which must support your thesis / thematic statement)
   - Evidence to support your topic sentence: several idea-based quotes from the novel
   - Analysis of the quoted evidence: Explain how it supports the topic sentence and thesis.
   - Transitions at the beginning of paragraphs
   - Wrap up sentences at the end of paragraphs
   - Correct MLA citations after each quote

   **Example:** Katniss’s experiences in her district teach her to “hold [her] tongue and turn [her] features into an indifferent mask” (Collins 6).
Step 4: Format paper

- Use Times New Roman 11 or 12 pt font with 1 inch margins
- Double space throughout (including the heading)
- Add the proper heading according to MLA formatting rules. See example below.
- Be sure you have this on a Google Document!

Jane Doe
Professor Brown
Course Name
9 August 2016

Title of MLA Paper

The text of the paper begins after the title. Establish your topic, purpose, and the position you are taking in your paper. This is where you will state your thesis.

Be sure to use proper formatting for your in-text citations. The following sentence shows

Standards being assessed

*CCSS.RL.9-10.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
*CCSS.W.9-10.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Literary Topics (Thematic Starters)

- Beauty of simplicity
- Change of power
- Change versus tradition
- Chaos versus order
- Circle of life
- Coming of age
- Communication - verbal and nonverbal
- Convention and rebellion
- Dangers of ignorance
- Darkness and light
- Desire to escape
- Destruction of beauty
- Facing reality
- Faith versus doubt
- Family - blessing or curse
- Fate versus free will
- Fear of failure
- Growing up
- Heartbreak of betrayal
- Heroism - real and perceived
- Identity crisis
- Illusion of power
- Immortality
- Individual and society
- Inner versus outer strength
- Injustice
- Isolation
- Loneliness as a destructive force
- Losing hope
- Loss of innocence
- Man against nature
- Manipulation
- Materialism as downfall
- Morality
- Motherhood
- Oppression of women
- Overcoming - fear, vice, weakness
- Power and corruption
- Power of silence
- Quest for discovery
- Rebirth
- Role of men
- Self-preservation
- Self-reliance
- Social mobility
- Self versus Others
- Temptation and destruction
- Will to survive
- Working class struggles
- Youth and beauty
**Summer Reading Essay Rubric (30 points)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus + CCSS</th>
<th>Limited (2)</th>
<th>Developing (3)</th>
<th>Meets (4)</th>
<th>Mastery (5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis / Claim (17%) W1.A</strong></td>
<td>There is no arguable claim related to a theme in the novel or it is very unclear. Body of essay may not relate to the statement made in the intro.</td>
<td>A comment regarding a thematic idea is present, but there is no arguable point. Thesis may not stay fully centered on the statement made in the intro.</td>
<td>An arguable point related to a theme in the novel is present. This is the focus for the essay.</td>
<td>An interesting, valid and arguable point related to a theme is conveyed. Body of essay serves to support this point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence (33%) W2.B</strong></td>
<td>There is no evidence or it is vaguely paraphrased.</td>
<td>There is only one piece of evidence per body paragraph which does not directly support the main idea. Citation may be absent or very incorrect.</td>
<td>One piece of evidence per paragraph which sufficiently supports the thesis OR multiple pieces of evidence per paragraph, but loosely support the thesis. Citations are approaching conventional use.</td>
<td>There are multiple pieces of evidence in each body paragraph which add unique and different ideas to support the thesis. They are incorporated correctly using proper MLA citation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis (33%) W1.E</strong></td>
<td>There is no analysis.</td>
<td>Some analysis, but it is unclear and/or does not support the thesis. Evidence is superficially analyzed, most likely with only a single sentence.</td>
<td>Analysis explains the meaning of the evidence and connects to the thesis.</td>
<td>Analysis richly explains the quoted evidence, especially individual wording. Analysis is double the length of the evidence and reconnects to the thesis in an intriguing, thought-provoking way.</td>
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<td><strong>Mechanics (17%) W1.D</strong></td>
<td>Multiple spelling and punctuation errors; improper formatting; lacks proofreading; causes confusion</td>
<td>There are many errors, but the paper as a whole is readable.</td>
<td>There are almost no grammatical or spelling errors. However, the style and/or vocabulary is not sophisticated.</td>
<td>Writing is nearly error free. Shows sophistication with varied and complex syntax and vocabulary. No use of 1st or 2nd person language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>