

21-22 Alpha English II Summer Assignment

For your summer Alpha English II assignment, you will begin your research work for your individual science fair project by working on the following things:

- Reporting a plan for your topic by writing a draft of your project title, indicating the science fair category, sponsor information, and any plans for necessary endorsements
- Writing a draft of a new purpose and hypothesis
- Accessing various resources linked in the Summer Assignment Organizer to find new sources (Alpha Manual, Open Source Databases, CPS Science Fair Handbook, Christopher Gillen's *Reading Primary Literature*, etc.).
- Carefully reading and selecting relevant notes from AT LEAST 5 NEW SOURCES that come from scholarly scientific articles published WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS - ideally, primary research should come from the last 3 years - All research will be collected in the tables provided in the 20-21 Alpha English II Summer Assignment Organizer (see below)

This assignment will be completed and submitted electronically. To create your own version of the organizer, follow these steps:

1. Sign into your CPS Google account - this is needed to access the shared documents.
2. Open the Google Doc of the [21-22 Alpha English II Summer Assignment Organizer](#)
3. Click "File" then "Make a Copy"
4. Rename your file with your first initial, last name, and Organizer (e.g., "N. Nordlund Organizer"), and then input your information into the file. ***Your grade will be determined entirely upon what you write in the Organizer - that is the document that will be submitted and evaluated.
5. Carefully read and refer to the [Summer Assignment Rubric](#) before, during, and after you complete this assignment.
6. When finished, you will submit your work electronically. Directions for submission will be provided when you return to school in the fall.

Two more things:

1. **Sophomore topic shift: How similar can my sophomore project be to my freshman project?** You are encouraged to build your sophomore project off of your freshman year project, but you must change at least 20% of your research. Typically, this means that you change a key variable or add a layer of complexity that requires additional research and testing. If you want to change your project entirely, you may - but it means starting over from scratch. A student once scrapped an essay she had toiled over for weeks. When I asked why, she answered, "Mr. Nordlund, it's like a ladder - it is better to be at the bottom of a ladder you want to climb than to be halfway up a ladder you don't want to be on." Wow - my mind was blown. Sometimes it's better to start over, but it's your project, so you have to decide what you must do. **Freshmen:** you are standing at the bottom of many ladders; choose your love and love your choice!
2. **Academic honesty:** Since this summer reading assignment is meant to be completed individually, you may not collaborate with peers or represent others' ideas (including those found online, e.g., Sparknotes, etc.) as your own. We will be discussing your research and your work when we meet in September, so please come prepared with your own ideas at that time. Individuals who are found to have not honestly completed this assignment will receive a zero for plagiarism and, per the [Alpha Academic Integrity Pledge](#), may be removed from the Alpha program. Please remember that in an academic community, you are expected to represent yourself with honor and integrity at all times. Please feel free to reach out to Mr. Nordlund at ntnordlund@cps.edu if you have questions or concerns about how to complete this assignment. I will do my best to reply promptly, but I will have limited internet access during stretches of the summer.

Good luck! Happy researching :)