

MODERN WORLD HISTORY SUMMER 2016 READING ASSIGNMENT

Dear Da Vinci Design Sophomores,

In just a few short months, you will be participating in your first social science course here at Da Vinci Design. In this course, you will be challenged to not only think critically about historical events, but you will also think critically about why and how these stories are told. So, in preparation for this course, you will be completing a summer reading assignment. The book you will be reading is Night by Elie Wiesel, a man's firsthand account about his experiences living in the Nazi death camp Auschwitz. This book can be found online or at any bookstore at a relatively low cost. In addition to reading this book, there are questions you must respond to. **We will discuss this book and your responses during the first week of school and throughout the year**, so it is absolutely essential to your overall understanding of the course that you complete this assignment. Make this assignment meaningful to you. This intellectual experience is a chance for you to take some time to reflect on questions of great importance about yourself, the world you live in, and the future. Remember, the more effort you put into this, the more you are likely to get out of it. Simply memorizing someone else's thoughts about Elie Wiesel, Night, and the Holocaust will not make any difference on you.

Assignment Details

1. As you read, think critically about what you are reading and make annotations. Take notes on what interests you, disturbs you, what you agree with, what you want to challenge, and what you do not understand.
2. Respond to the following questions below. Your responses may be typed or hand-written. You should bring them the first day of school, along with your book. Be sure to write the question down before responding.
3. When responding to questions, justify your response by using evidence from the book and citing what page number(s) your evidence is from. Make sure you answer each question thoroughly.
4. This assignment, along with a PDF copy of Night, will be posted on my Weebly (www.msheidijones.weebly.com). Note: to make effective and meaningful annotations, should you choose to use this method, you will need to print out a copy.

Questions

1. Is there such a thing as morality in “survival” mode? Is a human truly capable of discerning and acting upon “right and wrong” when enduring great suffering? Why?
2. What is the primary lesson that Wiesel teaches us in Night?
3. Is it possible to stop being “human,” and if so, what determines this humanity? When does “it” start and stop? What is the essential factor in being “human”?
4. There are many groups who attempt to conceal the evidence and memoirs of The Holocaust. Why is it essential for Wiesel’s story to be told? What effect does a firsthand account of this atrocity have on its readers? What is the world’s responsibility when genocide occurs? (“Genocide” is the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation).

5. When returning to Auschwitz, Wiesel says, "I come here and try to see the invisible and try to hear the inaudible." What do you think he means by this? Why is it important to learn about these events in history?
6. One of the themes of the book is faith. How does Wiesel's faith in God and himself change?
7. In the book, a man states, "I've got more faith in Hitler than in anyone else. He's the only one who's kept his promises, all his promises, to the Jewish people." Why do you think he says this? What does this say about humanity? (Think about: Why do events like this happen?)
8. One of Elie Wiesel's fears is that world has not learned anything after the Holocaust. Do you think that's true? Are other people in the world experiencing "Night" or could they? Explain.
9. Choose one quote from the book that you found to be meaningful and significant and explain why. (Choose a quote not used in one of your above responses).
10. Elie Wiesel has stated, "My whole life, my whole work, has been devoted to questions, not to answers." Why is it important to ask questions? Create five discussion questions based off of Night. (Tip: strong discussion questions are not easily answered and have multiple answers).

Should you have any questions about this assignment or need another copy of the assignment, my e-mail address is hjones@davincischools.org and my Weebly is www.msheidijones.weebly.com.

I look forward to reading your responses and hearing your thoughts during our class discussions in the fall.

Best,

Heidi Jones
10th Grade Modern World History Teacher