



English 1010/1020 CCP Summer Reading Assignment: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut.” – Stephen King

Summer Reading Book

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King (required)

“Can I be blunt on this subject? If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.” – Stephen King

Tips for the text:

Annotate the book as you read. The joy of summer reading is that the book is yours and therefore you can underline and write notes to your heart's content. The comments and conclusions you make in the margins of books can aid in retention of information and comprehension - and they also serve as a conversation between you and the text. You may underline memorable lines, write keywords in blank spaces, jot important page numbers inside of the back cover, or pose questions/connections about points, people, or moves the author makes in his/her argument. This does not mean you should scrawl all over every page to prove you have read (I won't even be checking the annotations), but selective annotating is **HUGELY** useful to readers and will help with both of the assignments as well as future writing assignments during the first semester.

Book: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

Have you ever wondered: “Did the author mean to do that?” King's book *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* provides an excellent response to that question. As King states in the introduction, “What follows is an attempt to put down, briefly and simply, how I came to the craft, what I know about it now, and how it's done” (King xv). In King's memoir, you will learn that writers do indeed make deliberate choices about diction, syntax, details, and other elements as they compose their work. The book is divided into four sections: C.V., Toolbox, On Writing, and On Living: A Postscript. **You must read all four sections before the first day of school.**

You may purchase King's book, borrow a copy from a friend, or take a copy out of the local library (either as a hard copy or digitally). I do have a few copies in my classroom that I will loan out on a first-come, first-served basis. I would **strongly** recommend you get the book early and do not wait until the end of the summer to check the library or purchase the text online!

Assignment: Using the text to analyze writing

After a close reading of *On Writing*,

1. You will be given 2-4 short pieces of writing upon your return to school. Using the hardcopy annotations you made while reading, you will be writing an in-class essay during the first days of school as well as answering objective questions about the text. You **WILL** be able to use your annotated notes on parts of the assessment, so it is highly recommended that you mark pages that are important.
2. Your in-class essay will be graded based on content, style, grammatical correctness, and your ability to connect concepts garnered from *On Writing* to your given stories.

A Word on Style: An author's style is the writing method used to create a distinct voice in the piece. When you analyze style, you should note the way in which the authors use words (diction), sentence structure (syntax), and images (imagery, symbols, motifs, etc.) to create a unique voice and tone in the piece.

This assignment is due on Wednesday, August 20.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please feel free to email me:

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