

Building a Frame of Reference:

This assignment is designed to help you expand your arsenal for reading, writing, and discussion. I've kept the accountability portion deliberately reasonable, and here's why: I want you to actually do this. I don't want you to agonize and stress over it and then just write some nonsense to get the points or to succumb to the temptation to cheat; this is more for you than for me. I've also left a lot of room for customization, so that you can focus on things that you are interested in.

Each of these things will help you better understand the world—the world you are about to inherit. So, throw yourself into it and learn something new. This is the stuff that grants you access to bigger conversations than you are accustomed to.

THIS MUST BE HANDWRITTEN. NO TYPING.

1. Google "top 10 news stories of _____" and go to the CBS result.
 - a. Choose four of the stories from each year and summarize them in 3 sentences each.
 - b. Choose one of the remaining stories FROM EACH YEAR to learn more about.
 - c. Read one more article about that story. Stick to reputable sources. (Wikipedia doesn't count here.)
 - d. For each year, your focus article should have a slightly longer summary (5-6 sentences) and you should note the source that you referenced.

Research the years 2014-2018. If you run into issues finding the CBS website, you can use another one. Just make sure you cite which website you used. Try to get the general stories, not specific "business" or "entertainment".

2. Go to the TED website
 - a. Choose five of these to watch. Whatever sounds interesting to you.
 - b. Each one must be from a different category.
 - c. For each one, write a brief synopsis of the content and its effect on your thinking or understanding.
 - d. One for week one.
 - e. One more for week two.
 - f. And yet another for week three. But don't forget to include your reaction.
 - g. One more for week four.
 - h. Last one for week five.

3. Watch two movies that are considered a "classic"
 - a. Use the AFI "Top 100" list.
 - b. Go outside of your comfort zone here—try something in black and white, maybe.
 - c. Don't watch something you've already seen. (ie: *To Kill a Mockingbird*)
 - d. You must email a picture of you watching the movie to demonstrate that you are actually watching one of these films.
 - e. Write a brief summary of the movie and why you think it is considered a "classic."
 - i. Don't cheat on this—I'm asking you to watch a movie, dude. Watch it with a friend or family member. Talk about it.

4. Listen to **at least two podcasts** from “Stuff You Should Know” (<http://www.stuffyoushouldknow.com/podcasts>)
 - a. Write the title and why it seemed like it would be interesting to you.
 - b. Write a paragraph that summarizes the content of the podcast and highlights something new that you learned from it.

You can email either Mr. Brown (mbrown@smjuhsd.org) or Mr. O’Neal (soneal@smjuhsd.org) with questions.

Your finished project should be around 7-10 pages in length.

You will bring this assignment to class on the first Friday of school. Organize them by section (section 1, 2 etc.)