

Eighth Grade Summer Writing

Your summer writing project is designed to help with your transition into eighth grade. Similar prompts will continue through the year as you prepare to write your graduation essays in spring of 2023!

1. **You must compose THREE pieces.**
2. **You will compose one piece for Dr. Freeberg. This will count as ONE piece.**
3. **Choose from the following topics. Compose at least two different kinds of pieces.**
 - a) WHAT IS JUSTICE? – Compose your own treatise!
Speak with a relative, a friend, or a mentor; discuss the meaning of justice in the world today; compose a poem, personal essay, story, or song on the theme of justice.
 - b) A PORTRAIT OF JUSTICE - Reflect on a person that you admire; conduct appropriate and relevant research; compose a one- to two-page biography. *What makes this person an admirable and virtuous person, a “Portrait of Justice”? Yes, you may add a portrait.*
 - c) JOURNALISM – Think about the ongoing struggle for justice in the world. Pick a place, a time, an event—an actual struggle. The struggle can be from the past; the struggle can be from the present. Write a 300- to 1000-word story, article, essay, or report.
 - d) JUST WORDS - Compose an extensive reflection on a meaningful quote that applies to the essential question of English 8. *Why are these words helpful to us? How might these words help us to “keep going”?*
 - e) JUST SONG - Compose an extensive reflection on a meaningful song (or score) that connects with the essential question in English 8. *Why are these words important or powerful? What do they teach us? What draws you to them?*
 - f) BOOK REVIEW - Write a 1- to 2-page book review on a work of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry that explores the theme of justice.
 - g) “FILM” REVIEW - Write a 1- to 2-page movie review on a program, documentary or feature film that somehow relates to our essential question of justice.
 - h) FICTION – Write an original work of short fiction.
 - i) NON-FICTION – Explore ANY topic: the COVID-19 crisis, the climate crisis, our current political situation, the struggle for equal or human or animal rights, the natural world.
 - j) POEM . . . OR SONG! – Hymn meter? Blank verse? Free verse? Linked seasonal haiku? It’s up to YOU!
 - k) FREE CHOICE – Yes, you may write about something else!
4. Each one of these THREE pieces should be a MINIMUM of one page. The maximum will be determined by your passion and enthusiasm.
5. Gather your summer writing into a single portfolio or document. Turn in your work on the first day of school! **If you have questions, email Mr. Glazer: steve.glazer@crossroadsacademy.org**