"Success For Every Student"

# Port Chester High School

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## Summer Reading 2026: Incoming 12th Grade

Google Classroom Code: **fcioair5**

**Directions:** You have a **two-part assignment**. The first part entails reading an article and reflecting on what you have learned. The second part will be to create a rough draft of your college application essay. **Both** must be completed-if either assignment is missing, the summer assignment will be considered incomplete.

### Part I: Article Assignment

You will read an article of your choosing from the list below and answer the following questions, in paragraph form, using multiple pieces of evidence from the text(s):

1. What does it mean to be an adult?
2. What are the markers of adulthood?
3. How has the definition of being an adult changed?
4. How will you use this newfound information in your future decision making?

**List of Articles:**

- https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/deciphering-our-differences/202311/what-makes-an-adult
- https://www.naepcjournal.org/journal/issue08b.pdf
- https://open.maricopa.edu/devpsych/chapter/chapter-8-emerging-adulthood/

**Please answer these questions on a Google Doc and upload them to the assignment on the Summer Reading Classroom page.**

**Continue →**

## Part II: Common App Essay Draft

**Directions:** After reflecting on the articles, you will begin drafting your **College Application Essay** (the Common App Essay). You must arrive on the first day of classes with a **COMPLETE FIRST DRAFT OF NO LESS THAN 450 WORDS** (and no more than 650). The essay should be written in a formal style, in double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

**What is expected of you in the Fall?**

Come to class in the fall ready to talk to your new classmates and teacher about the article you chose and your essay rough draft. Submit your work on Google Classroom by **the FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, Tuesday, September 1st, 2026.**

**Summer Reading AI Policy**

This assignment requires your own authentic reading, thinking, and writing. AI must never be used to summarize chapters, generate drafts, or substitute for your own voice. While AI may be used sparingly to clarify context or brainstorm ideas, suspected inappropriate AI use will be treated as plagiarism, resulting in a lower grade and other potential consequences.