

ISSUES

KRAMER

OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENT

A thorough examination of all of the complexities of the various issues that we study cannot come solely from articles, films, classroom activities, and other outside experiences. In order to have a greater sense of the multiple perspectives involved as well as the level of depth and expertise necessary to fully formulate your arguments, you need to have in-depth experiences with rich, non-fiction texts. During this semester, you will choose a book for outside reading, discussion, and writing. You will read the book on your own and use your blogs to respond to and engage in dialogue about your readings. Instructions for that exchange are below. Remember, the assignment here is to have a **conversation** about the issue and the book. There should be give and take and direct replies to comments and questions posed. As you write, remember that your posts are public and *anyone* may engage your ideas.

While you may read the books at any time (the final assignment is due Monday, January 9th), I highly recommend that you do not wait until the end of the semester and that you think about the moments during the next several months when you have the most time.

Instructions:

- Select a book.
- Fill out this [google form](#) informing me of your book choice and its subject. I will then connect you with a partner who is reading either the same book or a book corresponding to a similar topic.
- Go to Barnes & Noble or Amazon and purchase the book.
- Show the book to Mr. Kramer when you have it (I will be checking and keeping track).
- Make a reading schedule that fits with the deadline for your book. It should be typed and put neatly on a calendar. You should schedule at least 3 dates to post blog responses about your book (you of course may do more). Share your reading calendar in your Issues folder in your google drive.
- Blogging Requirements:
 - At least 3 posts (These are IN ADDITION to your regular weekly blog posts). You should consider doing one soon after you start reading; one while you're engaged in the main body of the book; and a final one after you've finished reading.
 - **Posts should contain enough detail and information to show a thorough reading of the book.** These are longer than a normal post.
 - At least 3 comments on your partner's posts.
 - A responding comment to every comment made on your blog.
- In your final blog post, work to not only wrap up the book but also make some larger conclusions, considering the big themes/ideas that you have discovered in your conversations and postings.