

Hi. Happy 4th of July! I promised you the rest of the reading list after I took my AP training course. So, here it is:

Short Takes: Brief Encounters with Contemporary Nonfiction by Judith Kitchen
Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

These are unlike any summer reading you have done at Crossroads before. I hope you enjoy them both!

The 1st book is currently available at Brentwood Borders (and the rest of the bookstores I spoke with said they can get it in a few days). Everyone has the second book at the moment.

I also hope you liked *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, which, just to remind you, was the first book you were supposed to read.

Now, of course, you want to know what I am expecting you to write about these books. This is different from anything you have done at Crossroads before too.

For *Short Takes*, I want you to pick your **five or six** favorite essays—you are reading along and you think, “Wow, I really like this one!”

Stop, and type:

author and title

what makes it seem like good writing to you—vocabulary, style, subject, how powerfully it expressed its message, how it spoke to you

then pick two passages that particularly grab you- make a photo copy, and glue them on your sheet, circle the words or images or sentences that make it speak powerfully to you (we kind of did this back with romantic poetry, actually)

{so, this assignment will have 5 or 6 sections, one for each essay you liked—2-4 pages}

For *Fast Food Nation*, I want you to write a personal response. You are a reviewer; you are evaluating this book. For the first time I am allowing you to use I in your writing if you choose because you are telling me:

a synopsis of the basic argument

what was effective about the argument

what evidence you found particularly compelling

what annoyed you

what you thought made the writing strong

did this argument have any effect on the way you feel about the way you eat?

You may organize this in any way you want to. It should end up being about one typed page.

I also want you to start thinking about a current issue that you would like to research and write about. You are not going to write a book, but you are going to do some research and come up with an argument of your own. You are not going to be held firmly to the topic, but the more thinking about it and sort of hunting around you do this summer on the data bases you can access through our library, the easier it will be for you at the beginning of the semester.

Have fun with this new reading! Enjoy the rest of your summer, and see you August 18!
Anne