

**Prompt:** Complete any three of the below tasks, showing insight and reflection. Tasks will be graded on completion and following directions.

**Format:** At least **one** of the three should be written. The other two *may* be a different format (video, audio recording, drawing, something else?).

**Submission:** Compile all three in one online document to submit via Google Classroom or MyMCPS Classroom.

- Clearly label all three tasks (*Sample label: "Thematic Exploration, Task 2"*)
- Share with your teacher by the end of the second week of school. **Friday, Sept. 13th**

Category	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Novel Study</b></p> <p>Select and read a novel of your choice.</p> <p>Pick any book of an appropriate difficulty you have not read before.</p>	<p>Complete a review of the book. (Focus on your reactions, not plot summary.)</p> 	<p>Craft up to three journal entries charting your developing thoughts as you read the book. (Each entry counts as a separate task.)</p>	<p>Research the author. Comment on how your findings influenced the novel.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thematic Exploration</b></p> <p>Choose from among the following themes, which we will be studying throughout the year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faith and beliefs</li> <li>2. Humor, Satire, and the Absurd</li> <li>3. Navigating Colliding Cultures</li> <li>4. Truth and Perception</li> <li>5. Violence</li> </ol>	<p>Create your own image that represents the theme. Include a reflection explaining what it means to you and says about the theme. If wanted, it may take the form of a "for sale" blurb, discussing the traits that make it representative of the theme.</p>	<p>Find and read a short story, article, or poem relevant to this theme. Identify the key literary elements in the text that show this theme.</p> <p>This task may be repeated up to three times.</p>	<p>Write an original short story, article, or poem relevant to this theme.</p> <p>Readers should be able to detect a clear message about that theme. (This task may be repeated with a different theme.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Perspective</b></p> <p>As we prepare to write our personal narratives/college essays, consider how authors express their points of view.</p>	<p>Watch a movie and write about a character's life from his/her point of view.</p> 	<p>Research how actors prepare for roles. Select an actor and write a paragraph that summarizes how he/she interpreted the character and prepared for the role.</p>	<p>Watch a debate on a current issue. Write a summary of one participant's (e.g. high school debate team, politician) point of view.</p> 

## Experiential Fun

Choose one or more of the following adventures this summer:

1. Visit one of the 17 free [Smithsonian](#) museums, galleries, or zoo, all a short Metro ride from RMHS. The African American Museum is the newest. Or you might want to checkout the Holocaust Museum or even the Visionary Arts Museum in Baltimore, if you are interested in Outsider Art, or just wonder what it is. Coolest museum gift shop in the World and right on the harbor.
2. Attend a cultural event such as a concert, documentary screening, or festival/fair. The Friday Washington Post Weekend lists fun events and check out this list of [Free and Fun experiences](#) in D.C. One of my favorite Saturday adventures is to explore Eastern Market, DCs oldest still operating market: crafts, clothes, jewelry, food, people-watching, and music all day. Take the metro for easy access.

Write or video a Travel feature about your experience, providing future travelers with specific details that evoke the experience. Don't forget a photo with you at the site, posing next to a Key Attraction.

Note: You might want to first check out Travel Writers online: try searching on *New York Times* or *Washington Post* travel. How do professional writers engage readers and inspire them to take a trip? Try some of these strategies in your own writing to make it soar.



Choose a topic related to your adventure to research in a Field Report. Pick something that you saw that intrigues you and maybe even inspires you to consider as a future college major or job choice, then learn more and teach us through a one page article with a visual.



Don't forget that the Natural History Museum is reopening the new, improved Dinosaur Hall in early June. Check their website for confirmation.



Create a photo journal of one of your outings or a family vacation. Photo journals are a great way to document adventures. Just be sure to get people into your photos and write some context so a reader can enjoy and understand.

Have your heard of "[Project 365](#)"? It's a way of documenting our lives with only one photo a day. Here are some tips if you chose to try it as one of your three choices.

## Trevor Noah

We will begin the year by reading *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Choose from this row if you would like to learn more about this writer before we read in class.

Watch The Daily Show. Reflect on Noah's humor and its effect. (Hint: Is he sarcastic, angry, silly, provocative...and why?)

OR

Watch 18 minute [Trevor Noah Stand Up](#) on YouTube. Reflect on his initial claim: "I came to America because I always wanted one thing. I wanted to be Black." What does he mean by this? How does he use comedy to reveal serious and somewhat painful experiences in his own life?

Look up one or more interviews with him on YouTube. Reflect on his values and perspective.



Read a book or watch a documentary about South African apartheid. Create a way to share what you learned with us.

OR

Read the short story "[The Bench](#)" by Richard Rive, then choose three or more of the reflection questions at the end of the story, using one of the formats listed at the top.