
Over the summer, you are to read Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood.* *In Cold Blood* is a non-fiction “novel” about a real life quadruple homicide that took place in Kansas in 1959. You will also be listening to the *This American Life* produced podcast *Serial,* about a real life homicide that took place in Baltimore in 1999. The summer assignments for this class will take you a good period of time to complete. *In Cold Blood* is approximately 350 pages, and it is a pretty dense read. *Serial* is a podcast with 12 episodes, ranging from approximately 27-53 minutes. It is in your best interest to start reading and listening to these materials ASAP. There are 3 assignments based around these materials:

**Assignment 1:**
Create an account and login to quizstar.4teachers.org. There, you will take a quiz on the first two parts of *In Cold Blood* (“The Last to See Them Alive” and “Persons Unknown”). The quiz will be approximately 30 questions long, and must be completed by 11:59pm on July 31.

**Assignment 2:**
In an essay of 3-4 pages, compare and contrast the details of the cases featured in *In Cold Blood* and *Serial.* How are they similar? How do they both reflect a theme of failing/achieving dreams? Are there any characters you consider explicitly evil? How does faith play a role in each case? What is the main difference between normal and abnormal people in the stories? Is there a difference? You do not need to explicitly answer each of these questions, but they should guide your essay. The papers need to be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins all-around. I will expect you to cite your sources properly, using MLA citations. We will review this during the first week of class, so these essays will be due on the first Friday of the school year (Friday, August 28).

**Assignment 3:**
You will, in groups to be determined during the first week of class, be expected to create a 7-10 minute podcast episode in the vein of *Serial* where you walk your audience through the relevant details of the case at the center of *In Cold Blood.* We will discuss the proper formatting and appropriate content during the first week of school, so the podcasts will be due at the end of the second week of school (Friday, September 4).

The quiz will be worth 30 points, but each the paper and the podcast will be worth 100 points. It will be very difficult to pass the first trimester if you blow off the summer work. This is an honors class, and as such, I am expecting a lot from you right out of the gate, and even more as the school year continues. I promise you that if you do your work and behave in class, we will have a fun and productive year.

Get to work. Have a great summer. I’ll see you in August.

-Mr. Heyman