

Freshman Honors Summer Reading

Along with reading *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*, Freshmen Honor students will be expected to read either *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho or *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd. After reading both texts you will need to **complete one** of the following assignments. All assignments need to be typed in the proper format. These books are available at local libraries, can be purchased in area bookstores, or limited copies are available to be signed out at the high school. Students whose English class is scheduled for the spring 2009 semester will still be expected to hand in Reading Projects during the first week of the Fall semester, on September 8, 2009.

1. *The Alchemist*, Coelho: With the help of several enchanted strangers, an Andalusian shepherd boy learns to listen to himself.

2. *The Secret Life of Bees*, Kidd: Fourteen-year-old Lily Owens is raised by the elderly African-American Rosaline after the accidental death of Lily's mother. Following a racial brawl in 1960s Tiberon, S. Carolina, Lily and Rosaleen find shelter in a distant town with three bee-keeping black sisters.

Option #1:

Write a letter to your English teacher. It should be two pages in length and include the following:

Information about the Book:

Title, author and plot summary

Description of a character you like or dislike. Discuss specific instances of the characters behavior that led you to this reaction.

Discussion of the book in comparison to others you have read; such as theme, conflict, plot development and relationship between the characters.

Letter should be typed in size 12 font and be written in block format. See attachment for help with formatting.

Option #2:

Write a two-page paper analyzing the change that the main character undergoes through out the course of the novel. Answer the following questions in your response: How does this character change from the beginning of the story to the end? What causes this change? Use specific examples and quotes from the book to support your assertions.

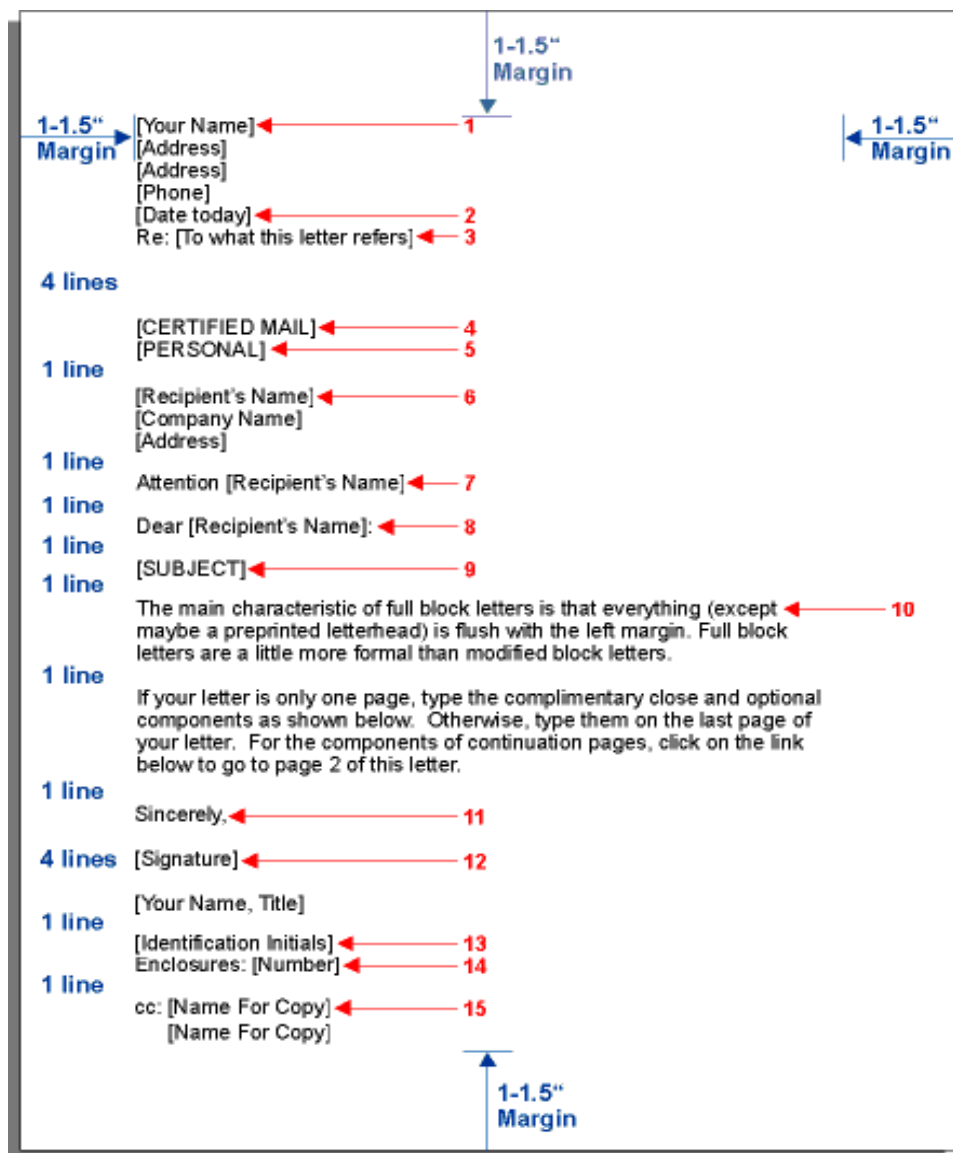
Your essay should be about two pages typed, double-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 point font), and must begin with a strong thesis statement. See attachment for formatting information.

Option #3:

Choose one passage that you consider crucial to a major theme of this book. Remember, a theme can be considered the author's insight or message about society, the world, or human nature. Explain the importance of this passage in communicating one of the themes of the novel. If your passage includes figurative language or symbolism, make sure you explain how these devices support the book's theme. Include the selected passage at the beginning of the essay.

Your essay should be about two pages typed, double-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 point font), and must begin with a strong thesis statement. See attachment for formatting information.

FOR OPTION #1



Not all sections shown in the model above should be utilized. Read the following explanations to see what you will need to add to your letter.

Return Address: If your stationery has a letterhead, skip this. Otherwise, type your name, address and optionally, phone number. These days, it's common to also include an email address.

Date: Type the date of your letter two to six lines below the letterhead. Three are standard. If there is no letterhead, type it where shown.

Inside Address: Type the name and address of the person and/or company to whom you're sending the letter, three to eight lines below the last component you typed. Four lines are standard. If you type an **Attention Line (7)**, skip the person's name here. Do the same on the [envelope](#).

Attention Line: Type the name of the person to whom you're sending the letter. If you type the person's name in the **Inside Address (6)**, skip this. Do the same on the [envelope](#).

Salutation: Type the recipient's name here. Type Mr. or Ms. [Last Name] to show respect, but don't guess spelling or gender. Some common salutations are

Ladies:

Gentlemen:

Dear Sir:

Dear Sir or Madam:

Dear [Full Name]:

To Whom it May Concern:

Subject Line: Type the gist of your letter in all uppercase characters, either flush left or centered. Be concise on one line. If you type a

Reference Line (3), consider if you really need this line. While it's not really necessary for most employment-related letters, examples are below.

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION

LETTER OF REFERENCE

JOB INQUIRY

Body: Type two spaces between sentences. Keep it brief and to the point.

Complimentary Close: What you type here depends on the tone and degree of formality. For example,

Respectfully yours (very formal)

Sincerely (typical, less formal)

Very truly yours (polite, neutral)

Cordially yours (friendly, informal)

Signature Block: Leave four blank lines after the **Complimentary Close (11)** to sign your name. Sign your name exactly as you type it below your signature. Title is optional depending on relevancy and degree of formality. Examples are

John Doe, Manager

P. Smith Director, Technical Support

R. T. Jones - Sr. Field Engineer

MLA Paper Guidelines

1. Plagiarism = ZERO. Plagiarism is one of the following:
 - A. Failing to cite quotations, facts or borrowed ideas.
 - B. Failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks
 - C. Failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words
2. There should not be a title page. Your identification should be in the MLA heading.
3. The page number preceded by your last name should be in the upper right hand corner, one half inch below the top edge. *
4. Leave margins of one inch on all sides of the page. *
5. Double space the entire paper, including the heading and works cited page. Do not leave extra spaces between paragraphs. *
6. Indent the first line of each paper one half inch or five spaces from the left margin. *
7. Use Times New Roman style and 12 font. *
8. When a quotation is longer than four typed lines in your paper, that quote should be separated from the text. The quote should be indented 10 spaces from the left margin. Do not add extra spaces before or after the quote. Make sure that you remove quotation marks and place the punctuation before the in-text citation.
9. Make sure that you alphabetize the works cited page. Indent the second line of a citation one half inch or five spaces.

*** Failure to follow guideline will result in your paper receiving a zero**