ENGLISH 2201

Non-Fiction  Assignment

***Night by Elie Wiesel***

* Nonfiction is everywhere. Most of what you will read in your adult and working life will be nonfiction. Nonfiction reading includes newspapers, magazines, biographies, autobiographies, speeches, and most essays. So, what exactly is nonfiction? It is ANY writing that concerns REAL rather than imaginary subject matter.
* Non-fiction texts come in the form of:
* Biographies (The life of someone written by another author)
* Memoirs (The writer’s record of experience from his/her life)
* Autobiographies (The writer’s account of his/her own life)
* Letters and Journals (Containing personal thoughts and reflections)
* Media Accounts (written for newspapers, magazines, television, podcasts, etc)
* For this assignment, you will be reading the non fiction autobiographical novel Night by Elie Wiesel.

You will have the first two classes to come in, relax, and we will watch some related video and read/discuss the novel. After the initial 1-2 classes, however, I will expect you to be **active readers** – meaning that apart from reading, you should be taking notes that will help you to create blog entries, using the website/app **KidBlog**.

What is a blog? It is a regularly updated website or web page, typically one run by an individual, that is written in an informal or conversational style. For a great read on what makes a powerful blog post, check out this link from the University of Exeter: **http://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/bloggers/blogposttips/**

How you prepare for these entries is up to you – you may choose to write rough workings in your exercise books, use index or cue cards, or use the class iPads or even your own iPhone or personal iPad to write your entries as you work.

Kidblog is a free app you can download at home (do not do this in school, you’ll burn up your data if the student wifi is down). You can technically, then, do these posts on the way home on the bus if you prefer or any other time you have a few spare minutes. You can save drafts of your work on KidBlog and then post the work at a later time when it has met your personal satisfaction.

***The Overall Assignment Expectations***

(A) By April 6th (Wednesday) of this unit, you will be expected to do the following:

1. Log onto the website [www.kidblog.org](http://www.kidblog.org). Go to the left-hand side and click ‘Enter Class Code’ under students. It will prompt you for a code. This code is: **n5xgy7f**
2. Once you join it will ask you to either create an account or sign in with google. You will sign in with google using your google classroom account information and password.
3. Once you have done this, your name will appear during future logins on a scroll-down bar (so all these steps only have to be taken once.)
4. Under settings you can change your login name (it will be your nlesdonline username) to your own name or a nickname if you wish to be anonymous in your posting.
5. **Introduce yourself online** in some manner (I will be putting both my 2201 classes together in this online community). Summarize in 2-3 sentences what you already know about this novel/time in history and/or how you think this novel might be different than fictional accounts of the holocaust you may have already read in previous years (i.e. After the War, Book Thief, Anne Frank and Me, etc…)
6. Also start navigating the site to become familiar. Just like facebook, pinterest, or about 100 other online social media sites, you need to learn to manoeuver around the website before you are comfortable with what it can do and what it’s limitations are.
7. Keep in mind this assignment is one that involves *consistent attention and participation* throughout the unit. You cannot expect to do well if you wait until the final due dates to begin. It is not a project that will consume large amounts of time as long as you stay on top of it.

(B) **Following the initial introductory post - at TWO** additional times throughout this four week unit, you’ll post a blog entry that reflects on the reading you have completed during the week. These entries should be a minimum of 400 words. As this is a four-week blogging activity, you will sign up for which two weeks you would like to post to the kidBlog forum. There is a limit to how many can contribute each week, so consider carefully what works best for your schedule (i.e. other courses, if you work, etc..)

So, altogether, you will make formal posts to the board on **THREE** occasions in four weeks. (The introduction, the two blog entries for which you have signed up)

(C) You will also be required to make **ONE** detailed online comment per week (between 50-75 words minimum) discussing the observations of others in their entries. Your job is to read at least 4-5 of your classmates’ blog entries and then talk about any **ONE** of those posts, highlighting and discussing the strategies/ points/arguments/points that the blogger has described. Respond and reply to their individual posts rather than starting a new thread for such comments.

(D) After you post comments on classmates’ blogs, your final job (**during your chosen weeks for blogging**) is to go back and read the comments people posted on **YOUR** blog. The best comments can lead to a dialogue. Respond to at least **TWO** points that you are asked (or observations that are noted), and respond to the ideas that others have shared. This can be a formal response to a question posed, or you can even add-on to the idea of someone else and continue the conversation. In the event it is your posting week and for any reason your post has not been commented on…(it happens all the time and is not a reflection of an individual’s writing or thoughts), you will be asked instead to comment on another writer’s posts twice.

The blogging posts in part C and D do not have to be formal. The blogging can (and probably should) be more conversational in the way it is written, but you can certainly write formally if you wish. However, they should be well thought-out and considered regardless of the writing style.

Altogether, including your posts about your own blogs in addition to your posts regarding the work of others, you are expected to make **11 Total Entries** by the completion date of this assignment.

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| ***Summary of Student Expectations*** | ***Due Date*** | **Expected/Minimum Number of Posts** |
| To login to the site, familiarize yourself with it, to change your username to a pseudonym if desired, and to let your teacher know of this change | *By Wednesday, April 6th* | 0 |
| To write your *introductory post* to the board (follow instructions for requirements | *By Friday, April 8th* (but the earlier, the better!) | 1 |
| To write **TWO** formal posts in your blog (400 words minimum) to which your peers can view and respond | You will sign up for two weeks from the four available. These must be posted by *Sunday evening at 8pm* of your chosen week to allow time for others to read and post to your blog | 2 |
| On your posting weeks, you (along with your peers who also selected that week) are responsible for leading discussion. You must respond to a MINIMUM of **TWO** peers who have written to your blog, OR if this has not happened, to help lead discussion in the blogs of others. You may start new threads, embed videos, links, alternate articles, whatever you feel is appropriate to enhance discussion during your week. | By *Friday evening at 8pm* of your two chosen discussion weeks | 4  (two each time you lead discussion)  However, you may realistically end up posting more – especially if a number of people post comments to your blog. You are certainly not required to post to EACH and every post, and if people post to your blog AFTER your discussion week has finished (Friday at 8pm), you are not expected to have to respond unless it is something you wish to do. |
| To write **ONE** comment (minimum) each week to the blogs of others. You must respond directly to their blog and not create a new thread.  There will be FOUR discussion weeks – weeks 2, 3, 4, and 5. | By *Wednesday at 8pm* of the discussion week but preferably earlier out of respect for your classmates who are leading the blogs that week to allow them time to read your thoughts and respond | 4  (*one per week* **X** four weeks)  This is a judgment call. You are marked on both the quality and quantity of your posts. If your comments are limited to vague and general comments (i.e. “great post! It was interesting) you will not receive a strong mark despite fulfilling the three post minimum. Make your responses to the work of others count! |
| **TOTAL EXPECTATIONS:** | **DUE DATES:**  **Log onto the site:** Apr. 6th  **Introductions**: Apr. 8th  **Blog Postings:** Depends on your chosen weeks. Will be any *TWO* of:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | | Apr.  10 | Apr. 17 | Apr. 24 | May 1 |   **Comments responding to your own blog** (during your discussion weeks) -- **TWO** by the end of each of your discussion weeks:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | | Apr. 15 | Apr. 22 | Apr. 29 | May  6 |   **Comments responding to the work of others**. Two per week for four weeks.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | | Apr. 13 | Apr. 20 | Apr. 27 | May  4 |   **Analytical Essay:**  May 10 (Day 5) | **11 Total Posts**  1 Introduction Post  2 Formal Blog Posts  1 Comments per week to the work of others (4 total)  2 Comments each time you lead discussion (4 total) |

***Part I -- Requirements for each KidBlog entry***

These entries are your opportunity to step back, think about what has been read, and talk about your progress and what you are learning. You can include some summary details, but your main focus should consider and **reflect on the main points and observations the author has chosen to discuss.** It is up to you to select what you have personally found meaningful. This may be a single sentence. A word. It could be a full chapter. Something that you began considering during a class discussion about the novel. Students receiving full marks on this section of the project will use videos, pictures, links to other articles to further the understanding of their peers, or any other multi-media to help enhance their discussion.

• Post your entry by the end of the reading schedule week (**which we will call Sunday evenings at 8pm**).

• Add a **specific title** for your entry that allows someone who sees the title only to know what the entry is about.

* Be sure to **specify what chapter, page number, sentence, etc..** you are specifically referencing in order to give your post context.

• Include **a time and date stamp** on each entry. The default settings will usually take care of this, but it’s your responsibility to make sure it’s working properly and that you have not turned this default off under settings.

• Indicate the name of the poster (your online identity). Make sure the entry ends with something like “posted by” plus your nickname. Feel free to either use your own name or make up a pseudonym. However, you will need to let me know in advance of this nickname so I know who’s post I’m reading!

• Maintain an archive of your posts—**don’t delete them**! You’ll return to them later on AND **they are what is being graded.**

• **Allow others to comment on the entries**. This ability is turned on by default.

*Frequency*

* Be sure that you meet your personal guidelines and that you **post your articles on time**. You can post **more frequently if you want extra feedback** or notice something additional that you want to remember about your writing. If you post late, it is not the responsibility of your peers to log back after the discussion week. And if your work is not read on time and there are no comments ro discuss, you cannot receive a grade for that discussion week.

**Possible KidBlog Entry Questions (for Weeks 2-4) for Consideration**

* What was the main idea the author wanted you to get from what you have read so far? (This can be an overall impression, a single idea from a chapter/sequence/event or a single statement).
* Why did the author/writer write this book in your opinion?
* What information surprises you? Why?
* A discussion of a key symbol noted in the novel.
* A discussion of any relevant analytical prompt terminology that you have noted in the novel.
* Make connections with your own reading experiences. What does the reading make you think of? Does it remind you of anything or anyone? Even another non-fiction piece (or figure) you may have read?
* What is the most important/interesting thing you have learned? Why? Where do you think you could look for more information about this topic?
* What is the impact of the writer’s syntax?
* Make a **text-to-text** or **text-to-world** or **text-to-self** connection.
* An emerging theme within the novel
* Is there **anything else** you would like to learn about this topic? Where could you **retrieve** such information (and go and research this a bit before posting!)
* The effectiveness of a sentence, phrase, individual word (diction) and its impact on your understanding.
* Create or find online a drawing or illustration (one that you feel represents a message within the novel) and explain why this visual is important.
* How is the topic **important and relevant**? To you personally and/or to others.
* Any OTHER points or questions you may want to address. These are just a guide. Do not let them *limit* you. **Use them to help you**.
* **NOTE** that you should not use the same questions/guidance in both of your blogs.

***Part II -- Blog Comments*** (Towards others and towards your own blog)

Help the blogger analyze and think about the observations they described in their entry. You can work as both a “cheerleader” and a “problem- solver”. Ask questions. Make suggestions. Share related stories about your own non-fiction piece. Be friendly and supportive at all times. Negativity without purpose, slanderous statements, or otherwise inappropriate messages will cause your account to be suspended and prevent you from completing this assignment.

There is no prescribed word count here, but the minimum word count should be somewhere between 50-75 words. Feel free to go beyond this.

You should post these comments **each** week. Similar to the two write-ups, these should be posted by the due date which is defined as Wednesday evenings at 8pm.

When you are posting to the comments of others regarding your own blogs, remember to take all posts as constructive criticism. Thank the poster if you like and discuss or clarify key points they have made. Provide links for other reading, articles online, videos, or just your opinion. There is no perfect model example here – it really depends on what is being discussed. These are due by Fridays at 8pm on your scheduled posting weeks.

***Part III – Analytical Essay***

As a final assessment, you are required to write an analytical essay. There will be such an essay question on your 2201 common exam (and 3201 public next year). You may choose to do this at home as an assignment (in this case you will use google classroom to submit the work) or as a unit test on May 10. You may select either option. However, if you are completing the work outside of class time, it must be submitted **by the test date or you will be asked to write the test. No extensions for this will be given.**

You will be provided with an excerpt from the novel to guide your writing.

In preparation of this assessment, you will be given several worksheet handouts to help guide your note-taking (these will not be taken in for a grade) for the KidBlog assignment as well as the analytical prompts handout.

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| Read the following excerpt from Chapter \_\_ of Night by Elie Wiesel. Write an essay where you analyze Elie’s recognition of self. In your essay you may consider epiphany, diction, and his father Shlomo. |

**The excerpt will be provided a week before the assessment due date. The chapter/section(s) that will be excerpted has yet to be determined.**