English 9

**Personal Enrichment Project**

**Blogs**

As you read your personal enrichment book over the course of the semester, you will be expected to create a reader response blog where you will record your thoughts as you read and discuss the book. For each entry you make, I will add a comment to your post, letting you know what you have done well, and what you will want to change about your entries as you write more. On the back of this handout is the marking rubric for your blog. It is important that you refer back to this rubric frequently—especially right before you submit an entry—to ensure that you have met all of the requirements.

**Basic Requirements:**

* You will write a total of 5 blog entries over the course of the semester. The (tentative) schedule for submitting your entries will be:

1. mid-October
2. mid-November
3. mid-December (prior to Winter Break)
4. early January
5. late January (once our full class discussions have been completed)

* each entry will be approximately 150-200+ words long
* each entry should have 2-3 direct quotes (correctly integrated) from your book; the purpose of these quotes/passages can be as evidence to support your ideas about the book, or they could express something (an idea, and image, a scene, etc.) that you wish to discuss in your entry
* while the language of your entries is allowed to be more informal than an essay (yes, you can use “I”), you will still be expected to follow the rules of correct grammar (i.e. punctuation, sentence structure, usage, spelling, capitalization)
* each entry must also include a visual image of some sort (with a heading) that relates to the content of your entry
* the focus of each entry will be up to you, but the most likely subject matter will be **themes**, **character** (motivation and development), and **connections** (to other books you have read, movies or TV shows you have seen, or your own life and experiences); you may also want to comment on the information you discover while researching your book and/or author

**Holistic Marking Rubric for Blog Entries**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Not Meeting Expectations (1)** | **Minimally Meeting Expectations (2)** | **Fully Meeting Expectations (3)** | **Exceeding Expectations (4)** |
| * entry is too short * entry is all (or mostly) plot summary * no quotes from book * excess of quotes with little to no student writing * no visual element * little to no evidence of insight or critical engagement with text * serious misreading and/or misunderstanding of text | * entry is just barely at, or just below, required length * only one quote from text * significance or relevance of quote may not be clear * quotes not integrated correctly * number of quotes comes close to equalling amount of student writing * visual element present, but lacks heading * some evidence of insight and critical engagement with text * some misreading of text, which affects overall quality of insight and analysis | * entry is within the guidelines for required length * two quotes * significance and relevance of quotes is clear * quotes integrated correctly * visual element present (with heading) * good evidence of insight and critical engagement with text * any misreading of text is minimal, and does not detract from overall quality of insight and analysis | * entry is within the guidelines for required length * two (or more) quotes * significance and relevance of quotes is clear * quotes integrated correctly * visual element present (with heading) * strong evidence of insight and critical engagement with text * no misreading of text |