

Summer Reading Assignment

The purpose of summer reading is to engage the brain while the body is at rest. With that end in mind, I am seeking to understand how your brain has been engaged this summer. We are going to be discussing your summer reading, *The Struggle for Europe* by William I. Hitchcock, in class. You will be responsible for discussing this book with your class over the first week of the school year; you may bring in note cards to aid your discussion. You will be graded according to quality of your contributions to the class discussion as noted below. Your discussion must include the following:

1. Identify the four main factors that Hitchcock will examine in his book (found in the introduction)
2. Explain how each of those four factors plays a role in bringing Europe to its current place in the world. You must give at least one specific example to illustrate each factor from each major section of the book for a total of 16 specific examples.
 - a. Section 1 – Aftermath (Chapters 1-4)
 - b. Section 2 – Boom (Chapters 5-8)
 - c. Section 3 – Rebels (Chapters 9-12)
 - d. Section 4 - Unity? (Chapters 13-16)
3. You may also want to read various news articles on the following websites to better inform your analysis:
 - a. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/europe/2003/inside_europe/default.stm (for news discussion)
 - b. <http://www.thebigproject.co.uk/news/> (Check the European News in English section)
 - c. http://europa.eu/index_en.htm (European Union website in English)
4. How does your summer reading illustrate characteristics of one or more four ways of centering your thoughts?
 - a. Theocentrism: centered around God and the church
 - b. Anthropocentrism: centered around humanity and its accomplishments
 - c. Ethnocentrism: centered around the unique superiority of your ethnic group
 - d. Egocentrism: centered around yourself (possibly your family)

Presentations will cover four days of class time and students must come prepared to discuss on the second day of school. Names will be drawn at random (if needed) to establish order of discussion.

Rubric: 120 points

Each discussion day will be an opportunity to acquire 30 points, for a total of 120 points for the summer reading assignment.

Ways to gain points:

1. Delivering an insight that you had while reading to the class
2. Asking a penetrating question that reveals more than a surface reading of materials.
3. Encouraging another student by building off of their point and enhancing the point they are making
4. Remaining focused on the discussion at hand and redirecting the conversation back to the main point if conversation strays

5. Making inferences that tie in new material to material that we have already learned.
6. Being willing to be the first to speak up when the discussion goes silent

Ways to lose points:

1. Interrupting another student
2. Mocking another student's ideas
3. Speaking without being recognized
4. Disparaging another group of people or race
5. Being generally obnoxious