NON-FICTION

\*All longer work will be submitted to turnitin.com

\*Start reading immediately

# Cue cards or sticky notes for non-fiction:

This process can be done fairly vaguely to quite fully—go by feel. Each time it occurs to you fill out a cue card or sticky note for one of the following 7, put it directly in the book.

Put the page number on the cue card or sticky notes, so you do not lose the page.

1—Emotional Appeal🡪What emotions are evoked in the participants in this work or meant to be evoked in you or the reader? How does the other author build that?

2—Arguments/Claims🡪What are the claims that the author is making? What evidence is he or she using to support those claims? How do they sit with you?

3—Right vs. Wrong🡪Ethically what is right or wrong with an idea that the author is presenting? Think about your own moral compass vs. what the author is presenting.

4—Authority🡪Who is being brought up to reinforce a claim? What are their credentials? What makes them an expert? What makes our author an expert on the topic?

5—Symbols🡪 Are there central images or symbols that we are to make sense of in the text?

6—Stories🡪Many non-fiction writers offer occasional personal anecdotes or stories to teach a point or bring home a point. Where is a story being used, and to what effect on the audience?

\*Will be checked in the process for 1) thoughtfulness and 2) completeness

# English 12 Independent study of a book of Non-fiction

As the name implies, independent study will involve you in reading a book and then completing a series of activities to be completed on your own. It may take you a long time to read the book so you should begin reading right away. We may have several weeks to complete the reading of the book.

1. **QUESTIONS**: A is due throughout unit

B is due at the end of the reading

**A Guiding Questions for Non-fiction.**

**There are 5 guided questions below. Divide your book into 4 different sections and answer these same questions for each section. Hand one in roughly once per week.**

1. What is this section about in the book?

2. What did you like about this section of the book? What was meaningful or what affected you?

Alternatively, write on what bothered you about the section and why.

2. What was your favourite part in this section? Why?

3. What connections did you make with this section of the book?

4. Are there any diagrams, pictures, illustrations in this section of the book? If so, what did the

visuals teach you in this section?

5. How is the information organized in this section? How effective is the organizational pattern of

the writing?

**B After-Reading Considerations for Non-fiction. Answer these questions once only at the end.**

1. What did you know about this topic before you began reading?

2. Why did you choose to read this book?

3. Were you happy with your choice? Why?

4. Did the book and the person(s) described or the writer measure up to your expectations? How?

5. Would you recommend this book to other readers? Why?

6. What do you think is the author’s purpose for writing this book?

7. Does the author achieve his/her purpose?

8. What viewpoints did the author express?

9. Do you agree or disagree with the author’s opinions? Explain.

10. What comments or questions do you have for the author?

2 Mid—Assessment🡪Focus Assignment 1🡪Due midway.

Write one essay of 250 words max.

1. Grab any of the sets of cue cards or sticky notes that you have done. Consider one complete set of cards for a topic (for example, 3 cards on cmotion). Build an extended piece of writing on that set. There may be a second set that fits quite nicely with the first set, and you may create a piece of writing ( for example, character + argument/claims). Create your thesis here; then, proceed…
2. You have various examples of interesting passages in the book. Discuss at length some of the aspects of the writer’s life that make the work unique or compelling. Alternatively, discuss any aspect of the writer’s style of your own focus. Make sure that you have a sufficiently narrowed thesis topic.
3. Discuss how the person in the book has changed throughout his or her life. You may discuss what he or she has faced, or is facing, and the effect.
4. Discuss conflict and stumbling blocks in the book. What events thwarted the person’s progress throughout.
5. What is the theme of the book or what is its message or lesson? Demonstrate the theme or message with examples from the book.
6. Discuss how this book applies to your life, your goals, or your vision of self.

3A Just before 3, hand in the Major Work Data Sheet

3B **FOCUS ASSIGNMENT 🡪** Due: after you finish the book

Choose essay 1 or 2, or creative 3

1. In either a long paragraph with introduction, thesis, proofs and point of departure or a small essay do the following. You will need 3-6 quotations in total throughout your work. Ensure you also explain your quotation each time (PQE—what’s your Point?—Quotation—Explanation) (250 or 500 words)

Grab any of the sets of cue cards or sticky notes that you have done. Consider 2 complete sets of cue cards (for example, Emotion + Arguments/Claim). Create a thesis; then, proceed….

OR

1. Structure: in either a long paragraph with introduction, thesis, proofs and point of departure or a small essay respond to 3 of the following questions. You will need 3 to 4 quotations in total throughout your work. Ensure you also explain your quotation each time (PQE—what’s your Point?—Quotation—Explanation) (250 or 500 words)

* Discuss the central theme/message/learning to the book. Do you think that the author was successful in getting the message across? Why?
* For whom was the book written? What kinds of things in the novel make you feel that it would appeal to a certain audience?
* What are the good and bad points about your book and why?
* Did the book help you in any way or change your thinking?
* Did you learn anything from the book? What did you find most interesting?
* What did you find most bizarre? What may have been disturbing in the book?
* What was most believable or unbelievable idea or event? How believable is the original premise of the book?
* Would you recommend this book to any one? Why or why not? Will you read any more by this author?

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/10 **INDEPENDENT THOUGHT** Major Work Data Sheet**NON-FICTION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Author**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **1stPub. (Yr.)**:\_\_\_\_

**Title** (historical context in which the text was written, writer biography that is clearly relevant)

**Major Players** (What people get the most attention in the book. What is their authority? What connection do they have to other people mentioned in the text?)

**Conflicts** (societal conflict or references in the text, or your own conflicts as you read it):

**Author** (how does the author portray himself/herself? Traits? Trustworthiness? What level of expertise or authority does he or she bring to the topic?)

**Major Repeated elements** (what are the sections in the book? Big events that get repeated or discussed? What is the discussion throughout the text?)

**Surprises** (surprises for you or unexpected turns of event in the text)

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**Narr. style** (What are the nuts and bolts of how the book is organized? How accessible is the text? What makes it accessible? What other highlights are there in how the author displays facts (diagrams/figs. Etc.) Effect on the reader?)

**Motifs** (repeated expressions, ideas, concept, fear etc. throughout the text—“get rich quick”, “teenage angst”, “adventure”, “the use of the colour yellow”)

**Noteworthy imagery, symbols or allusion, or stories/anecdotes the author uses to prove a point.**

**Themes/Messages/Lessons**:

**Important Quote(s) (3-ish)**