

English 12A – Future Studies

Mr. Gonzales – jgonzales@birmingham.k12.mi.us



2021 Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to English 12A – Future Studies! Throughout this course we will study visions of the future explored by essayists, science fiction writers, and filmmakers. We will look closely at the social, literary, and scientific contexts that give rise to these various viewpoints and try to better understand humanity's role in shaping its own future. This assignment is designed to jumpstart this journey.

Here are the details:

Read or View: In preparation for our first week together, please spend some time this summer doing **ONE** of following:

1. Read a novel of your choice that explores a vision of the future. Keep in mind that assigned texts for this course have included: *Frankenstein*, *A Handmaid's Tale*, and *Ready Player One*, so you'll want to avoid selecting those titles for your summer read. If you need suggestions, please feel free to contact me or you may visit <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/future-fiction>
2. Watch a film of your choice that explores a vision of the future. Keep in mind that assigned films in this course have included: *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Contact*, *Blade Runner*, and *Her*, so you'll want to avoid watching those particular films.

***Whether you read a novel or watch a film, you'll want to make sure you take some notes or otherwise record your thoughts so you can discuss this novel or film during the first week of class. Some possible topics of conversation regarding this novel or film include:**

- a. What did you think of this work of futuristic fiction?
- b. Did the novel or film seem to be optimistic or pessimistic? How can you tell?
- c. Was this vision of the future realistic?
- d. What problems does the author or filmmaker explore throughout the work?

Optional (*but highly recommended!*) Reading:

1. To familiarize yourself with current issues within this field of study, consider browsing articles on websites such as:
<https://futurism.com/>
<https://slate.com/technology/future-tense>
<https://reillytop10.com/>

Again, welcome to English 12A – Future Studies. If you have any questions about this assignment, or this course, please do not hesitate to contact me at: jgonzales@birmingham.k12.mi.us