

Honors American Lit Summer Reading Assignment / Contest

This summer we want you to take advantage of the digital subscription to the New York Times that is available to you through the school. Once you've created an account, you can read The Times on any of your devices, so access is easy—even when you are on the go.

The Summer Reading Contest is a national contest sponsored by The Times. The best way to learn about it is to search The New York Times for “Summer Reading Contest”. There you will find more detailed instructions, links to previous winners, and the submission form for how to enter each week.

Here's how it works:

1. Every Friday from June 16 to August 25 The New York Times will post a Student Opinion Question asking the same two questions:
 - What interested you the most in the Times this week?
 - Why?
2. You can choose anything published in The New York Times in 2017: articles, essays, videos, interactives, or photographs. Your written response is limited to 1,500 characters, which is about 250-300 words.
3. Every Tuesday starting on July 4, the editors of The Times will announce winners from the previous week and publish their response. They will also post winning responses on their Facebook and Twitter feeds too.
4. To get an idea of the breadth of topics students have chosen in the past — from refugees and "post-truth politics" to power napping and junk food — you can browse their archive of previous winners.

FAQ:

Q: How do I prove to my teacher that I participated?

- When you comment, make sure to check the box that asks if you would like to be emailed when your comment is published.
- If you do so, the system will send you a link to your comment, which you can use to show your teacher, your parents, your friends or anyone else you'd like to impress.
- Please note that you will not get an email until the comment has been approved, which may take up to 48 hours over weekends.
- Another method? You may also take screenshots of your comments before you hit “submit,” then gather those all together at the end of the summer.

Q: What happens if I don't have internet access?

We understand that this assignment requires access to the internet. If you don't have access for a period of time, simply write a short response on any current event you happen to learn about in any way for that week and explain how you were informed. It may be through the radio or TV, an actual newspaper, or even word of mouth. The point is to be developing a habit of being engaged and staying informed.

Q: How will teachers be using this in class?

That will depend upon the teacher, but the expectation is that OCHS students will be coming into school next fall better informed about the news of the day and more engaged with the world around them.