

## American Literature and Composition

### Summer Reading Assignment 2019

[\*The Book of Unknown Americans\* by Cristina Henriquez](#)

#### Assignment:

Throughout *The Book of Unknown Americans*, Cristina Henriquez examines the complexity of the American immigrant experience and the pursuit of the American Dream. The American Dream is often defined as the belief that all persons, regardless of birth, share an equal opportunity for liberty, success, and happiness in the United States of America. Answer the following prompt in a well-developed paragraph: **According to the novel, is the American Dream attainable?** Provide **TWO** specific and cited textual details in MLA format to support your argument.

#### To earn all of the credit for this assignment, students must complete the following:

1. Complete an outline for the paragraph following the outline template on page two of this assignment. The outline can be handwritten in this template after printing it out, or it can be typed in this template and printed out. Either way, students must bring a physical copy of a completed outline to class on the first day of school.
2. Additionally, students must also type the complete paragraph and bring a printed copy to class on the first day of school. It must be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins and double-spaced.

#### Requirements for the outline:

- The outline can be handwritten in this template after printing it out, or it can be typed in this template and printed out.
- The outline can be written in recognizable phrases EXCEPT for the quote sections. Please include the exact quote and MLA citation in the outline.

#### Requirements for the paragraph:

- It must be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins and double-spaced.
- Write a well-developed paragraph (no more than a page) following the organizational pattern set for in the outline.
- Utilize only 3rd person pronouns (No *I, you, we, us, me, etc.*)
- Utilize present tense verbs only (For example: Jefferson walks with authority.)
- Include two specific quotes from text and cite them properly in MLA format. Ex: "I was not there, yet I was there" (Gaines 3). (Author's last name page #). **The period is after the citation.**
- Utilize proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Please edit your work!

#### Due Dates:

1. The completed outline is due on the first day of school. This can be handwritten directly on the template after printing it, or it can be typed directly on the template and then printed out. Your paragraph is due on the first day of school. It must be printed. Digital submissions will not be accepted.
2. You will eventually submit the completed paragraph to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) during the first week of school, so please save an electronic version of the paragraph.

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**Summer Reading Assignment 2019 Outline Template**

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**I. Analysis Paragraph**

- A. Attention Getter (Possibly a quote/anecdote/rhetorical question):
- B. Thesis Statement including the TAG (*Title, Author, Genre*) (Identify whether the novel shows the American Dreams as attainable and lead into a discussion of the topic.)
- C. First Assertion Sentence (Example: What is the first reason the American Dream is portrayed as attainable or not?):
- D. First Piece of Evidence: Passage or quote from the novel to support the first assertion (Documented correctly in MLA format):
- E. Analysis of the First Piece of Evidence: Specific support in your own words (written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person):
- F. Transitional Sentence into the Second Assertion Sentence:
- G. Second Assertion Sentence (Example: What is the second reason the American Dream is portrayed as attainable or not?):
- H. Second Piece of Evidence: Passage or quote from the novel to support the second assertion (Documented correctly in MLA format):
- I. Analysis of the Second Piece of Evidence: Specific support in your own words (written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person):
- J. Clincher/Closing Statement Providing a Feedback Loop to the Thesis:

**American Literature and Composition**  
**Summer Reading Assignment 2019 Rubric**  
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	<b>8-7</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>4-3</b>	<b>2-0</b>
<b>Organization/ Content Knowledge</b>	Essay is focused, clear, and specific. Student demonstrates full knowledge of text.	Essay is generally focused and student is at ease with content.	Essay is somewhat focused. Student is only able to demonstrate basic concepts about content.	Essay is not focused. Student does not grasp content.
<b>Textual Support</b>	Writing effectively utilizes 2 or more pieces of textual evidence.	Writing attempts to effectively utilize 2 or more pieces of textual evidence.	Writing has limited textual evidence.	Textual evidence does not exist.
<b>Sentence Fluency</b>	Writer consistently uses a variety of sentences. The writing is natural and flows smoothly.	Writer uses some variety in sentences. Paper flows smoothly, but has some rough spots.	Writer uses simple sentences. Some sentences are choppy and awkward.	Writer uses little or no variety in sentences. Most of the sentences are unclear.
<b>Conventions</b>	Essay is typed and contains no errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar.	Essay is typed but contains a few errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar.	Essay is typed but contains many errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar.	Essay is not typed and the errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar interfere with comprehension.