

Honors Research Methodology and Academic Writing Oakland Catholic High School

Welcome to Honors Research Methodology and Academic Writing! This course will prepare you for college-level research and writing by guiding you through the process of writing a research paper. In preparation for the course, you will read one of the following texts:

Into the Wild, by Jon Krakauer

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot

You should get a print copy of whichever book you choose and annotate in a way that will help you to record your responses and reflect critically about what you read—noting passages that interest or confuse you, and finding ways to connect to the reading. For example, you might use marginal annotations, define unfamiliar words, and keep a timeline of events. You will be allowed to use your annotations for class activities and assignments, including in-class writing, so effort put forth over the summer will be rewarded during the school year.

Please also choose a notebook that will be your dedicated Research Methodology notebook for the semester. You can choose a simple composition-style notebook, or something fancier—but make sure that it is something that you will enjoy using for the class. On the first day of class, your teacher will ask you to show at least 3 pages of notes about your reading. Your notes can reflect your own ideas and style, but please use the following questions to guide your notes:

Please identify a representative “big idea” or question, and answer the following questions:

1. What is one big idea or main question of your chosen book?
2. Why does this big idea or question matter to you?
3. Why might it matter to the people around you (e.g. family, friends, city, nation)?
4. Why might it matter to the world?

You should have a total of 4 responses, one for each question. Your response to each question should be on a separate page in your notebook and should be approximately one page in length (and could include illustration, if you like). In addition, for each question, find a representative quote of no more than 4 lines to illustrate what you have to say. Your quotes must cover the breadth of the book, and each quote must come from a different chapter of the book.

Please be ready to show your work on **the first day of class**.

This is a fairly open-ended assignment, so you should feel empowered to create something that will represent your ideas and insights about your reading. The assignment should reflect your own original work. Copying information from another student or an outside source, such as the Internet, will result in a zero on the assignment as well as disciplinary action. We will discuss these books when we return to school.