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November 1, 2021

Governing Board, Paradise Valley Unified School District
District Administration Center
15002 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85032
governingboard@pvschools.net

Re: Summer Reading Assignment at Horizon High School

Dear Board Members:

My daughter is a junior at Horizon High School. She is taking AP English 5-6 this school year. Her teacher assigned *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* by Jon Ronson as part of her summer reading assignment for last summer. Last week, I decided to read *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* and learned that this book is an extremely inappropriate book to assign to high school students, including my then-15-year-old daughter.

My first hint occurred on Page 2 of Ronson's book in which he recounts a fake Twitter account bearing his name tweeting that he had dreamt about "cock" all night (Exhibit 1). I had hoped that this would be the only thing that concerned me about the assignment and I could move on. Over the course of the book there are several uses of profanity[1] and veiled death threats (*see*, e.g., Exhibit 2); a reference to a sex dream about an autistic child (Exhibit 3); references to "stupid penis jokes" (Exhibit 4); a description of a woman confessing to having sex with her cat in group therapy (Exhibit 5); and a description of a "Nazi orgy with five hookers," which included a torture dungeon, genital inspection, a 67-year-old man spanking a naked prostitute with a leather strap before ordering her to perform a sex act on him, and the shaving of his buttocks (Exhibit 6).

However, I have not yet included the most concerning parts of Ronson's book. The passage that caused me to decide that I could not let this assignment pass without comment described a blog by a man who says that he is in love with his dog, so he collected canine semen samples, injected them into his penis, and had sexual intercourse with his female dog when she was in heat so that her puppies would be "his" (Exhibit 7). Equally disturbing was the author's four-page account of his attendance at the filming of a "public disgrace" pornography fetish scene for Kink.com. The scene included a woman being led into a bar, stripped, restrained, and humiliated by the bar patrons with electric shocks to her genitals, groping, spanking, slapping, and spitting, among other things (but, per the director's instructions, no anal fisting), before a pornographic actor emerged to have sexual intercourse with her until he ejaculated (Exhibit 8).

When I shared this information with my daughter's mother, she found the summer reading assignment (Exhibit 9). There is no choice of what book to read and no warning about

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[1]The profanity includes the words, fuck, asshole, prick, cunt, piss, shit, bullshit, hell, and damn, the most frequent probably being fuck and cunt.

its content. There is a note advising students to "choose your reading carefully" and "do some research" into the authors, but this is in reference to another part of the assignment, which was to choose and follow a columnist over the summer months. Furthermore, there was no other book to choose for this assignment.

On July 5, 2021, about five weeks after assigning Ronson's book, my child's teacher decided to offer an alternative book to read. Parents received an email from Horizon's principal which included the revision to the summer reading assignment (Exhibit 10). The email and the notice did not contain anything to indicate that Ronson's book was inappropriate for a child's reading assignment. Was this non-informative change a response to negative feedback from other parents, an attempt to offer an alternative and cover this up at the same time?

Obviously, the citations to Ronson's book require very little (if any) comment on the suitability of Ronson's book for a child's reading assignment, even a teenager's reading assignment. *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* is obviously inappropriate. If I had known the contents of this book I would not have allowed my daughter to read it at her age.

However, several more questions arise.

Is *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* by Jon Ronson on the Paradise Valley Unified School District's approved reading list?

Did my child's teacher (and the other 11th grade English AP English teacher and, later, the principal) read Ronson's book before assigning it?

At some point, my child's teacher must have read the book because it would be necessary to grade the assignment. Why did the teacher not contact parents then?

If the teacher had read the book before assigning it as summer reading, why did the teacher assign it? Why did the teacher think that it is an appropriate book for a high school assignment? Did the teacher think it was appropriate?

Did the teacher knowingly assign a sexually explicit book?

Did the principal know the contents of this book?

Will a teacher in this district (or anywhere) assign this book again?

What will happen to ensure that teachers are not and will not in the future assign books that we can fairly characterize as smut?

Was this assignment the result of negligence, or unacceptably bad judgment, or was it more purposeful?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Thomas A. Morton

EXHIBIT 1

The next morning I checked @Jon_Ronson's timeline before I checked my own. In the night he had tweeted, "I'm dreaming something about #time and #cock."

He had twenty followers. Some were people I knew from real life, who were probably wondering why I'd suddenly become so passionate about fusion cooking and candid about dreaming about cock.

I did some digging. I discovered that a young researcher, formerly of Warwick University, called Luke Robert Mason had a few weeks earlier posted a comment on the *Guardian* site. It was in response to a short video I had made about spambots. "We've built Jon his very own infomorph," he wrote. "You can follow him on Twitter here: @Jon_Ronson."

Oh, so it's some kind of spambot, I thought. *Okay. This will be fine. Luke Robert Mason must have thought I would* like *the spambot. When he finds out that I don't, he'll remove it.*

So I tweeted him: "Hi!! Will you take down your spambot please?"

Ten minutes passed. Then he replied, "We prefer the term *infomorph*."

I frowned. "But it's taken my identity," I wrote.

"The infomorph isn't taking your identity," he wrote back. "It is repurposing social media data into an infomorphic esthetic."

EXHIBIT 2

A father of three is out of a job because a silly joke he was telling a friend was overheard by someone with more power than sense. Let's crucify this cunt.

Kill her.

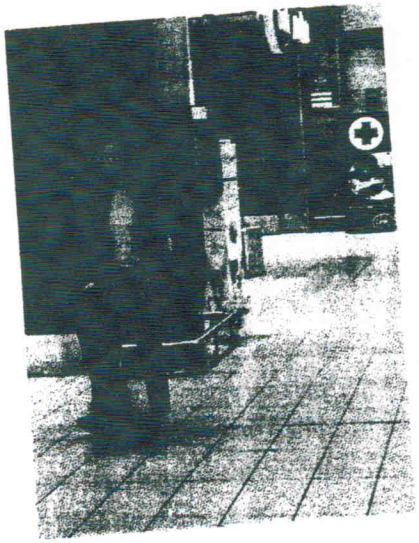
Cut out her uterus with an xacto knife.

Someone sent Adria a photograph of a beheaded woman with tape over her mouth. Adria's face was superimposed onto the bodies of porn actors. Websites were created to teach people how to make the superimposing look seamless, by matching skin tones. On Facebook someone wrote, "I hope I can find Adria, kidnap her, put a torture bag over her head, and shoot a .22 subsonic round right into her fucking skull. Fuck that bitch make her pay make her obey." (That message, Adria told me, although I couldn't confirm it, was from a student at the New York City College of Technology.)

"Death threats and rape threats only feed her cause," someone eventually wrote on 4chan/b/. "I don't mean stop doing things. Just think first. Do something productive."

Then her employer's website and servers came under a massive DDoS attack, which caused them to crash—the automated version of one person or even thousands sitting at a computer manually pressing refresh relentlessly until the targeted website becomes overpowered and collapses. A group of attackers said the attacks would stop if Adria was fired. Hours later she was fired—publicly and without warning, according to SendGrid's CEO, for dividing the community she was supposed to unite.

EXHIBIT 3



Justine Sacco (in dark glasses) at Cape Town Airport. Photograph by @Zac_R, reproduced with his permission.

gym. Newspapers were ransacking her Twitter feed for more horrors.

> And the award for classiest tweet of all time goes to . . .
>
> "I had a sex dream about an autistic kid last night."
>
> (February 24, 2012)
>
> —"16 Tweets Justine Sacco Regrets," BuzzFeed, December 20, 2013

This was the only time Justine would ever talk to a journalist about what happened to her, she told me. It was just too

EXHIBIT 4

A bolt of anxiety shot through Hank. He quickly scanned her replies, but there was nothing much—just the odd congratulation from a few of her 9,209 followers for the "noble" way she'd "educated" the men behind her. He noticed ruefully that a few days earlier the woman—her name was Adria Richards—had herself tweeted a stupid penis joke. She'd suggested to a friend that he put socks down his pants to bewilder TSA agents at the airport. Hank relaxed a little.

The next day Adria Richards followed up her tweet with a blog post:

> Yesterday, I publicly called out a group of guys at the PyCon conference who were not being respectful to the community.

She explained the background—how she was a "developer evangelist at a successful start-up" and that while the men had been giggling about big dongles, the presenter onstage was talking about initiatives to bring more women into the industry. In fact, he'd just projected onto the screen a photograph of a little girl at a tech workshop.

> Accountability was important. These guys sitting right behind me felt safe in the crowd. I got that and realized that being anonymous was fueling their behavior. This is known as Deindividuation. Theories of deindividuation propose [here Adria was quoting from Wikipedia] that it is a psychological state of decreased self-evaluation and decreased evaluation apprehension causing antinormative and disinhibited behavior. Deindividuation theory

EXHIBIT 5

doesn't lie. A dog doesn't feel shame. A dog lives in the moment. Max Mosley was like a dog. We should be like dogs. And our first step toward being like dogs was to reveal to the group something about ourselves that we really didn't want people to know.

By coincidence, a friend of mine, the writer and broadcaster Starlee Kine, took Brad's course a few years ago for a book she was writing. I met Starlee before I flew to Chicago. I told her not to tell me what to expect—I wanted to be surprised—but she did tell me the first part. She said it always begins with the participants' being asked to reveal a secret.

"With my group," Starlee told me, "the first man said that his secret was that he hadn't paid taxes in ten years. Everyone nodded and looked disappointed that his secret wasn't so sensational. Then the next man said that his secret was that he had once murdered a man. He was in a truck with a man, and he punched him in his head and threw him out, and the guy was dead, and another car ran him over. And he didn't go to jail and he never told anyone."

"What did Brad Blanton say?" I asked her.

"He said, 'Next. Great.' So then it got to the next woman. She said, 'Oh! My secrets are so boring! I suppose I can talk about how I have sex with my cat.' Then the murderer raised his hand and said, 'Excuse me. I'd like to add something to my secret. I'd like to add that I also have sex with my cat.'"

Starlee had found Brad's course crazy. I probably would have too had I not been seasoned in the destruction of Jonah and Justine and the salvation of Max.

EXHIBIT 6

Seven

Journey to a Shame-Free Paradise

F1 BOSS MAX MOSLEY HAS SICK NAZI ORGY WITH 5 HOOKERS
EXCLUSIVE: SON OF FASCIST HITLER LOVER IN SEX SHAME

Formula One motor racing chief Max Mosley is today exposed as a secret sadomasochist sex pervert. The son of infamous British wartime fascist leader Oswald Mosley is filmed romping with five hookers at a depraved NAZI-STYLE orgy in a torture dungeon.

Before hammering away at the girls he plays a cowering death camp inmate himself, having his GENITALS inspected and his hair searched for LICE—mocking the humiliating way Jews were treated by SS death camp guards in World War II . . .

At one point the wrinkled 67-year-old yells "she needs more of ze punishment!" while brandishing a LEATHER STRAP over a brunette's naked bottom. Then the lashes rain down as Mosley counts them out in German: "Eins! Zwei! Drei! Vier! Fünf! Sechs!"

With each blow, the girl yelps in pain as grinning, gray-haired Mosley becomes clearly aroused. And after the beating, he makes her perform a sex act on him.

His Jew-hating father—who had Hitler as guest of honor at his marriage—would have been proud of his warped son's command of German as he struts around looking for bottoms to whack. Our investigators obtained a graphic video of his sick antics.

—Neville Thurlbeck, *News of the World*, March 30, 2008

Max Mosley sat across from me in the living room of his West London mews house. We were alone. His wife, Jean, was at their other house, where she now spends most of her time. As Max told the *Financial Times*'s Lucy Kellaway in 2011, "She doesn't like going out, she doesn't want to meet people."

Nobody I could think of had ridden out a public shaming

MYLER: Yes.

PRICE: You can quite clearly see from the photograph that it is a plastic spiral-bound notebook. I suggest to you that it is inconceivable that anybody could possibly honestly describe that as a SS style inspection sheet.

MYLER: I disagree.

PRICE: What do you know about medical examinations by the SS?

MYLER: I'm not a historian of them.

PRICE: Would it be fair to say you know nothing about SS medical inspections?

MYLER: Not in great detail, no.

PRICE: Anything at all?

MYLER: Not in great detail, no.

When Colin Myler and the paper's investigative journalist, Neville Thurlbeck, were asked in court to specify exactly where Max was mocking Jewish concentration-camp victims, they pointed to the photographs of the women guards shaving a naked Max and pointed out that Jews were shaved at concentration camps. But, as James Price QC indicated, they were shaving Max's bottom. That wasn't resonant of concentration camps at all. Furthermore, as Max explained during his evidence, if they'd wanted to look like Nazis, "it would have been easy to obtain Nazi uniforms online or from a costumier." Yes, there were uniforms, but they were generically German military.

The *News of the World*'s case crumbled further when an e-mail exchange between two of the women guards was read out in court.

EXHIBIT 7

to; she is awaiting sentencing as I write this) is that in November 2010 she and thirteen other 4chan users DDoS'd PayPal as revenge for their refusing to accept donations to WikiLeaks. You could donate to the Ku Klux Klan via PayPal but not to WikiLeaks.

The FBI showed up at her Las Vegas apartment one day at six a.m. "I answered the door and they said, 'Mercedes, do you mind putting your pants on?' To be honest, being arrested is really fun. You get to troll the FBI, you get to wear fancy handcuffs, you get to pick the music in the car. But the indictment was boring. I napped through it."

I spent a few hours with Mercedes. She was, on the surface, quite troll-like—a lover of jubilant online chaos. She told me about her favorite 4chan thread. It was started by "a guy who's genuinely in love with his dog, and his dog went in heat, and so he went around collecting samples and injecting them into his penis and he fucked his dog and got her pregnant and they're his puppies." Mercedes laughed. "That's the thread I told the FBI about when they asked me about 4chan, and some of the officers actually got up and left the room."

This aspect of Mercedes wasn't so interesting to me because I didn't see this story as being a story about trolls. Focusing on trolls would be taking the easy option—blaming the renaissance of public shaming on some ludicrous, outrageous minority. A scattering of trolls may have piled on Justine and Adria, but trolls didn't fell those people. People like me felled them.

But I got to know and like Mercedes during the months

EXHIBIT 8

It was midnight outside a sports bar in the San Fernando Valley. From the front, the place looked dark and empty—all shuttered up. But Donna had told me to go around the back to the fire door behind the bins. When Max had told me how impressive Kink.com was, he didn't mean the sports bar. Kink.com headquarters is a giant, ornate 1914 armory in San Francisco, equipped with all sorts of dungeon and torture equipment. I knocked on the fire door. A security guard ticked me off a list.

I scanned the barroom. There were twenty people in there—middle-aged men sitting alone, some young couples. Everyone looked nervous. A man walked over to me.

"I'm Shylar," he said. "Shylar Cobi."

"Are you a porn person?" I asked him.

"Twenty-three years," he said. "It's all I know."

He had a sweet, melancholy face. He reminded me of Droopy.

I asked him a bit about his life. He said he didn't just work with Donna. He was a producer for hire, averaging fifty porn shoots a year. Which meant he had a thousand credits in all, including—I later discovered on IMDb—*Orgy University*, *Wet Sweaty Boobs*, and *My Slutty Friends*.

"So what's the plan for tonight?" I asked him.

Shylar shrugged. "Same as always. They fuck, he finishes, we clean up, everyone goes home."

He gently squeezed my arm to make sure I was okay. He wasn't the only one. Various members of the production crew

kept doing it to me all night—rubbing my back, squeezing my arm. I suppose, being tweedy and owl-like, I just don't look like the sort of person who normally hangs around extreme porn shoots, and I think everyone wanted to ensure that I was not feeling intimidated or about to faint. It was sweet. Porn professionals were being so nice and considerate toward me that it was almost as if *I* were the person about to have his genitals electrocuted. But it wasn't to be my genitals. It was to be the genitals of the porn actor Jodi Taylor, who was sitting in the corner of the bar discussing logistics with Princess Donna, who now stood up, hushed everyone, and made a speech about what was expected of us.

"So," she began. "The name of the site is Public Disgrace. It's a site about public humiliation. You guys are all just people drinking and having a good time, and you have no idea that we're going to be turning up at this bar. When we come in, you're all invited to participate to a certain extent. You can grope the model, assuming you have clean hands and short-filed fingernails. We have nail clippers and nail files if anyone thinks they're going to need them. You can smack her ass, but this is not about you showing us how hard you can smack someone. I don't want to see anyone take full swings. Sometimes people try and show off with their spanking. I'm sure you guys can all spank very, very hard, but I don't want to see it. Other things you can do. You can spit on her body. You can pour your drinks on her. You can pull her hair. You can gently smack her in the face. But try not to be too obnoxious. You are totally welcome to shout things out and verbally degrade her. That is encouraged. But just don't be *that guy*." She summarized: "So. Don't get shitfaced, don't fist her ass, enjoy."

Donna and Jodi Taylor disappeared to a corridor outside, where Donna attached a ball and chain to Jodi. Donna gave a signal to the cameraman. He pressed record. And it began.

The drinkers feigned surprise at the sight of Donna pulling a shrieking Jodi Taylor into the bar. "What *IS* going on?" said a man in a beanie hat. He slammed down his drink in "outrage."

Donna ripped off Jodi Taylor's clothes and attached electrodes to her genitals.

"What are you DOING?" said the man. He seemed to be the only crowd member daring enough to improvise dialogue or simulate emotions of any sort.

"It's electricity," Donna said. "Do you want to shock her?"

"Do I want to SHOCK her?" he said. "I just came in to get a drink. Oh. Okay."

Donna handed him the remote control. He pressed the button. Nothing happened.

"Turn it off and turn it on again," said Donna. He did. Then he pressed the button. Jodi Taylor screamed.

(Later, during a break from filming, a few crowd members expressed doubt that there really was electricity coursing through the pads into Jodi Taylor's genitals, so one of them placed the pad against her hand and pressed the button and shrieked. Later still, I got an e-mail from Jodi Taylor: "Obviously if something like public disgrace happened to me in real life, it'd be extremely intense, horrifying and awful. But that's the beauty of porn. You can actually do these crazy things without actually doing them. It's all make-believe. It's

pure fantasy and a fantasy is never humiliating or scary. It's awesome. Princess Donna is all about making the PORN GIRL'S fantasy come alive far more than the fantasy of the people viewing it. Only with her can you have a fantasy as taboo as gangbang or public disgrace and actually get to live it out while being completely safe and comfortable.")

Shylar Cobi had told me that the crowd was composed of friends and friends of friends, with one exception. A hired porn actor was mingling among us. And now he emerged and started having sex with Jodi Taylor. At this, everyone became a bit bolder, if still slightly stilted. "Put ice on her tooth," a man shouted. Someone poured beer over Jodi Taylor's head. I tried to maintain a respectful distance, but from time to time, when needing to ensure that I was accurately chronicling the minutiae of it, I think I drifted into shot. And so, if you are a Public Disgrace viewer and the erotic ambience was ruined for you by the sudden emergence of a bespectacled man peering in close and writing things in a notepad, I'm sorry. I just hope a few subscribers out there happen to find the image of a tweedy, owl-like journalist at an orgy stimulating, although I understand that this would be a niche quirk.

The filming dragged on for hours. Donna had implied that it would be over by midnight, but one a.m. became two a.m. I desperately yearned for it to be over. "Please ejaculate," I silently urged the man, "so I can go to sleep." (In this way I imagine I was like millions of women before me.)

And then they finished, Shylar cleaned up, and everyone went home. Later I spent a little time with Donna. I told her I thought she'd definitely created a more mindful working environment than most regular offices. There were no bullying

EXHIBIT 9

English 5-6 Advanced Placement

Summer Reading Assignments

Purpose/Justification:

1. Summer reading provides continuity between May and August, helping students continue to grow in analytical thinking. The annotation/note taking process, in particular, is a structured means to guide students in this thinking.

2. Summer reading provides an immediate springboard for discussion in August. AP English classes, in particular, can begin with the introduction and discussion of argument on Day 1.

3. Students in Pre-AP/AP should be avid, active readers. Summer reading supports this expectation while directing the activity towards pieces specifically chosen in relation to the student's English course.

Overall Tasks:

1. You will read one non-fiction selection, Jon Ronson's *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*. In August on the first week of school, you will be assigned a timed writing prompt which explains how the author incorporates humor along with the informational text to achieve his purpose.

You will be expected to quote directly from the book; therefore, it is essential that you devise some way of taking notes. You may annotate directly in the text itself, or you may choose to keep hand written (blue or black ink pen) notes on paper for the work. Notes taken on paper should be neatly stapled (no frilly edges) with a full heading in the upper-left-hand corner. The book and notes are due on the first day of school. (If you check out a copy from the library, be sure to renew it right before school starts because you will need it for the timed write.)

2. For the second assignment you will be choosing and following a prominent newspaper or magazine columnist. You must read the columns of this writer over the summer and keep a log of responses to his/her topics and writing style. The specifics of this assignment are explained after the information on the non-fiction selection. This assignment should be typed. You will bring in a hard copy, yet you should also keep a digital copy in your pvlearners account.
This assignment is due the first day of school.

Note: Choose your reading carefully – do some research on a title of the non-fiction work as well as the columnist before choosing him or her. I strongly suggest a parent also has input to your choice. This is a college prep class, and these are college level choices. The list has a variety of topics for a variety of interests, suitable for a variety of sensibilities.

Annotation: What's important?

Here are some specific things you'll want to consider in your reading, concepts on which you'll want to make/take notes and ideas you'll want to be able to identify/discuss about your non-fiction work.

In addition to your annotation, consider your thoughts and responses to what the author is saying and how he is saying it. Include some personal comments on these thoughts. Carefully consider why you have these ideas? Some may be ideas you had prior to reading the book. How has the author confirmed, changed, or challenged your thinking?

Project Evaluation and Due Dates

You will be assigned an in-class timed writing for the work you read. The essay will be worth 50 points.
You will be expected to provide specific examples from the reading (with proper MLA parenthetical documentation); therefore, you will be allowed to use your book/notes.
Bring your book and your notes to class on the first day of school in August. Caution: Whatever you bring and turn in the first day of school is what you will be able to use on the in-class timed writing. You cannot come with additional notes or the book later.
The columnist assignment is also due the first day of school in August. Bring a hard copy to class, and you will be uploading a digital copy to Turnitin.com. Your teacher will give you instructions on how to submit your columnist assignment.

Assignment: The Columnist Project

This coming year in AP English, you will become students of rhetoric and language, learning to think critically about the world in which we live. A major objective of this course is to develop ideas about informed citizenship. This summer project is designed to help you better understand how arguments work. You will hone your skills in reading critically and analyzing nonfiction works. You will focus on one columnist—a writer who regularly (often on the same days each week) publishes an opinion column in a newspaper or magazine, either in print, online, or both.

You will choose a columnist who discusses national concerns, including but not limited to finance, politics, or social issues; columnists who write about sports, fashion, music, movies, etc. are not appropriate.

You must collect FOUR current columns and provide a link to her/his work. You can access most of these resources online. Select a variety of topics, do not concentrate just on pandemic or related issues.

YOU WILL WANT TO READ SOME OF THE COLUMNISTS'WORK BEFORE COMMITTING. In other words, don't just choose a writer randomly – read some of his/her work so you know if you like the person, his/her opinions, writing style, etc.

Directions:

- Choose a columnist to "adopt" for the summer.
- Read and think about four articles from this columnist.
  These should be current (follow throughout the summer if possible), but check your columnist's printed material or website weekly because some columnists take frequent breaks during the summer; get to know their schedules so that you can fit in the number of columns you need. You may access archives for many of these columnists; if you should choose to go to the archives, you may only go back as late as January 2021 in order to keep the information current.
- Create a five-page document for this part of the assignment.

Important: Organize your work in the following manner, or you will not receive credit.
Use the example below as a model and label each part accordingly.
This project will be collected on the first day of school in August.

NOTE: All work must be typed, and you must retain a digital copy in your pvlearners account.

Parts of the five-page document

First, the Cover Page. On the first sheet of the five-page document in a single paragraph summary, describe your columnist. You will need to do a little research. However, you may find that the columnist may even describe his or her own column, beliefs,

views, biases, etc. The publication in which they are published may also describe the columnists a bit. Describe the writer's typical subject matter (political, tech, business, cultural, social, etc.), his or her angle/bias/slant, anything notable about his or her style(use of humor, sarcasm, expert opinions, research, interviews, etc.), his or her authority or credibility(any other positions he/she holds or works he/she has published), and other information you find about the columnist. (Double space this paragraph.)

Still on the first page, but in a short paragraph below the above information, describe why you chose to adopt and follow this columnist. Ideas you might consider are describing a bit of information about you (your beliefs, your hobbies, your interests) that might be relevant to the reason you chose this columnist. You can also explain what you liked about this person's writing style or beliefs. Many students select a columnist who reflects their own beliefs, but you may have chosen one who challenges your beliefs and/or brings up points you haven't considered. (Double space this paragraph as well.)

Second, the Column Analyses. Each article analysis should have its own page. Adjust the margins and font if you have to, and DO NOT double space this section. Remember to use the exact format as the example below. For each column, you should complete the following:

Part 1: Article Analysis

- Citation: Cite the source of the article. Use MLA 8 format. Purdue's OWL (Online Writing Lab) has an easy to use, correct citation "machine."

- Content: One paragraph (approximately 100 words) overview of the content and scope of the article. • Tone: In a

sentence or two describe the author's tone and any shifts that may occur in the tone throughout the article.

Tell where those shifts occur, too. (i.e. In the beginning of the article, the author is humorous to draw in the reader, but the tone shifts to cautious about midway.)

- Organization: Is the article written in chronological order; does it compare and then contrast; does it list a step-by-step process; is it an extended definition with examples; does it explain cause and effect; does it describe more minor ideas first and build to an important idea, etc..... Identify the kind of organization and explain a bit. Again, this is just a sentence or two.

- Diction/word choice: Choose three specific word choices that the author uses, and discuss in a sentence or two (total) how the author's specific word choice helps create your understanding of the text and the author's point of view.

- Appeals, Devices, and Strategies:
  How does the columnist support his point? Does he or she try to create specific emotions in the audience? Which ones? Doesthe author establish his credibility in the article or need to (remember that they are a syndicated columnist)? Does the writer present figures and statistics? What exact emotions is he or she trying to incite in the reader?) Describe any effective writing strategies or literary devices you can identify in the article. Discuss the effect these supports create.

Part 2: Article Personal Response

Write a response to this particular column of approximately 150 words, considering the following:

- How does s/he hook the reader in the opening of the column? How does he or she inspire the reader in the close the column? • What is the author's main claim (central idea, thesis)?
- How soon does s/he announce the thesis?
- Who is the intended audience for this article? How do you know?
- How much is based on observation? Personal experience? Interviews? Fact?
- What questions do you still have? What information do you still need to know?
- Do you agree with his/her claim(s)? Explain why or why not?
- How has the article changed/reinforced your own opinion on the issue?

Remember, each response is one page, and you should begin a new page and repeat the sequence for parts one and two for each of the four articles.

This assignment is worth 50 points.

Remember, the columnist assignment is due the first day of school in August. Bring a hard copy to class, and you will be uploading a digital copy to Turnitin.com. after hearing the teacher's instructions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us.

Jay Parizek jparizek@pvschools.net
Brian Morgan brmorgan@pvlearners.net

LOOK BELOW TO SEE A SAMPLE ENTRY!

Your name *(The heading and citation are double spaced.)*

AP English 5-6, Period ?

Citation: MacEachern, Doug. "Canals: Why Would a Desert City Turn Its Back on Them?" Arizona Republic, 29 March 2014,

azcentral.com/story/news/local/2014/03/29/canals-/3118315001/.

[Note: you leave off the http://www]

(Note: The above information is double-spaced, and the information below is single-spaced, starts with a subject heading, and is double spaced in between entries of information. The whole analysis of each column should fit on one page. You should use Arial or News Times Roman 10 or 12 font, but you can use a bit smaller font if you need to do so.). Follow directions!!

Part 1: Article Analysis:

Doug MacEachern provides an overview of Phoenix's history with water sources, specifically canals, and he discusses the current need to develop a living system along these canals. His description of the original development and use of canals, followed by a vision of what could be, ends with a call to city leaders to begin development of such a project called "canalscaping." MacEachern claims the project is long in the making, needing only a persuasive salesperson to find a buyer to und the whole thing.

Tone: MacEachern uses primarily an informative tone to review the canals' history with some slight mocking of Phoenix's seemingly lack of motivation to do what seems so obvious to large cities.

Organization: The article follows a chronological order, concluding with a call to arms.

Diction/Word Choice: The vocabulary is simple and the message is straightforward. Words like "allure," "lush," and "lavishly" make the idea attractive and seemingly simple. The words themselves contrast the typical perceived desert landscape as the water project itself contrasts the idea of desert resources.

Appeals, Devices, and Strategies: MacEachern focuses primarily on convincing his readers through logic, facts, and examples. He references the Scottsdale Waterfront in an attempt to excite his readers about the potential of this project. In describing the waterway systems in Phoenix, he does use some imagery which helps the reader visualize the canals. He uses rhetorical questions at the beginning of the article to make the reader take stock of what he knows about this topic. Then at the end, the writer uses slight hyperbole to exaggerate the beauty of these water projects.

Part 2: Personal Response:

MacEachern's piece is a plea to the Phoenix residents, specifically to those in power, to plan and create a waterfront community, one that is long past due. He begins by establishing that the idea is not a new one. He mocks the fact that not since the ancient "Hohokam people mysteriously disappeared" has such a "community of canals" existed. In fact, he claims that a century ago canals "transformed the…dry desert into a lush, productive garden of citrus and produce" and could do so again. The tone is cautionary as he notes that Phoenix is "the driest urban environment in North America," and yet it "has turned its back to flowing water." In fact, he sounds somewhat challenging in this address which seems to be intended for both community leaders and readers. He outlines the project's general concepts concluding that it needs only a leader, "someone of real stature to step forward and declare canal development essential" to Phoenix. He assumes that the project is a needed one but that the Valley is slow in its support. What seems to be lacking from this article is an explanation of why such a project has not already occurred. Is there a downside he's not telling? Is money the central issue? Vision does not seem to be lacking. He claims engineers and designers see the wisdom of such an undertaking, so the reader is left wondering why they haven't already done this. The idea of a water system in the desert seems actually counter to what a desert is, so I definitely need to hear more from both sides.

(BELOW IS THE LIST OF POSSIBLE COLUMNISTS)

PROMINENT NEWSPAPER COLUMNISTS

If any one of these writers has switched papers or magazines, you may still use him or her. Your bio and citation will indicate to me who they are currently working for. If, for whatever reason, you don't find the columnist on the webpage I have given you, go ahead and do a Google search for him/her. For example, when I checked, John Tierney didn't show up on *The New York Times* webpage; however, a Google search shows he still works for them, and a web link was provided. You are not required to purchase a subscription; use your own discretion.

National Review: http://www.nationalreview.com/authors

Michael Auslin
Jonah Goldberg
Victor Davis Hanson
Rich Lowry
Andrew C. McCarthy
Deroy Murdock
David Pryce-Jones
George Will

The Washington Post: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/opinions/index.html?nid=top_opinions

Richard Cohen
E.J. Dionne
Fred Hiatt
Charles Karuthammer
Kathleen Parker
George Will
Karina Vanden Heuvel
Fareed Zakaria

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: http://www.ajc.com/news

Jay Bookman
Mike Luckovich
Kyle Wingfield

The New York Times: http://ww.nytimes.com/pages/opinion/

Charles M. Blow
David Brooks
Roger Cohen
Gail Collins
Ross Douthat
Maureen Dowd
Thomas Friedman
Nicholas D. Kristof
Paul Krugman

Boston Globe: https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/?p1=BGHeader_MainNav

Lawrence Harmon
Derrick Z. Jackson
Jeff Jacoby
Scott Lehigh
Joanna Weiss

LA Times: http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/

Meghan Daum
Jonah Goldberg
Doyle McManus
Patt Morrison
Jim Newton
Gregory Rodriguez

Wall Street Journal: http://online.wsj.com/public/page/news-opinion-commentary.html?mod=WSJ_topnav_opinon_main

L. Gordon Crovitz
William Galston
Peggy Noonan
Mary Anastasia O'Grady
Bret Stephens
Kimberley A. Strassel

The New Yorker: http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/contributors

Jon Lee Anderson
James Surowiecki
Jeffrey Toobin
Jia Tolentino

Slate.com: http://www.slate.com/

Emily Bazelon
John Dickerson
Dahlia Lithwick

Syndicated Columnists

Mona Charen
Thomas Sowell

EXHIBIT 10

From: **Linda Ihnat** <HHSnoreply@pvschools.net>
Date: Wed, Jul 7, 2021, 2:32 PM
Subject: AP English 5/6 Summer Reading Adjustment
To: <bmonroe@pvschools.net>

Paradise Valley Unified School District

Jully 7, 2021

Parents, Guardians, and Junior AP English students,

Please read the attached letter about an option for your summer reading choices. Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Parizek have added an optional choice. If you are not an AP English

5/6 student, please disregard this email. Thank you.

Information re summer assignment for incoming AP Juniors.pdf

Linda Ihnat, Principal

Paradise Valley Unified School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Paradise Valley Unified School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: Unsubscribe

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

Emails and other correspondence to and from Paradise Valley School District are subject to public disclosure, upon request, according to Arizona Public Records Law (A.R.S. §39-121, et seq.) and corresponding State records retention requirements, unless the content is specifically exempt from disclosure by a state or federal law.

July 5, 2021

Dear AP Language Students and Parents,

Greetings from your AP Language teachers! We sincerely hope you are having an enjoyable summer.

As you begin your work on the summer assignment (if you haven't already), we'd like to offer an alternative title to *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* by Jon Ronson if you so choose. If you prefer, you are welcome to read *Fast Food Nation*, by Eric Schlosser, as your summer reading title (complete details of this title are listed below).

The assignment prompt requires a small tweak to incorporate this new title. Here is the original:

You will read one non-fiction selection, Jon Ronson's So You've Been Publicly Shamed. In August on the first week of school, you will be assigned a timed writing prompt which explains how the author incorporates humor along with the informational text to achieve his purpose.

Here is the updated prompt:

You will read one non-fiction selection, Jon Ronson's *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* or Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*. In August on the first week of school, you will be assigned a timed writing prompt which explains how the author incorporates--or does not incorporate--humor along with the informational text to achieve his purpose. **If you decide the author does not employ humor, be prepared to cite specific examples and strategies your chosen author uses to make his case.**

Remember, this is an alternate title ONLY for part 1 of your summer assignment. You will still need to choose a columnist and complete those four analyses for the second part of the summer assignment. Click here to be directed to Horizon's website where the full details of the entire summer assignment can be found.

We are very much looking forward to working with you in August. If you have any questions, remember we can be reached at jparizek@pvlearners.net and brmorgan@pvlearners.net.

Happy reading!

All the best,
Mrs. Parizek and Mr. Morgan

https://www.amazon.com/Fast-Food-Nation-Dark-All-American/dp/0547750331

- ISBN-10 : 0547750331
- ISBN-13 : 978-0547750330