

# Informational Text Homework for Quarter #4

The following schedule should serve as a guide to completing one, focused task each night on a particular text. On Fridays, students should be prepared to discuss the article for that week in a Socratic Seminar class discussion and turn in the written portion. **For this to be done effectively, it is important that the student re-reads the text each night before completing each task.**

## **Monday: "reading for understanding"**

1. Skim article (title, author, source, date, paragraphs).
2. Read article carefully for meaning. While reading, circle 3-5 unknown words.
3. Look up those unknown vocabulary words online or in a dictionary. Write the definition in the margin of the article.

## **Tuesday: "reading to clarify main ideas"**

1. Read the article carefully with a highlighter.
2. While reading, highlight one important phrase or line in each paragraph.
3. After reading and highlighting, write a short and focused 5-7 sentence summary using the provided template. Be sure to only use the most important information you highlighted.

## **Wednesday: "reading to connect & respond"**

1. Read the article carefully with a pen or pencil.
2. Underline any evidence the author presents to help support their position. Put a star and a note next to any part that connect to something in your life or the world. Put an arrow and a note next to any opinions or reactions you have to the text.
3. Write a 5-7 sentence opinion paragraph. Use the helpful resource page for ideas.

## **Thursday: Socratic Seminar preparation**

1. Examine, understand, and think about the essential question for the article.
2. Read the article carefully WITHOUT anything in your hand.
3. After reading, brainstorm two level 2 and/or level 3 questions that you can bring to our discussion on Friday. Use question stems to help you create your two questions related to the original essential question.

# Helpful Resources!

## SUMMARY PARAGRAPH (4-6 sentences)

### STEP 1: Thesis/topic sentence

<b>Identify it...</b> (What is the topic? What are you talking about?)	<b>Verb it...</b> (What is the author trying to do?)	<b>Finish/explain it...</b> (What's the big idea?)
	identifies      acknowledges demonstrates    shows compares        confirms provides        considers explains         suggests (circle one)	

**STEP 2:** List the 4-5 most important facts or ideas from the text. Combine highlighted phrases and ideas whenever possible.

**STEP 3:** Combine your topic sentence and listed facts into a 5-7 summary paragraph on a piece of notebook paper. Be sure your essay explains just the main idea of the text.

## OPINION PARAGRAPH (4-6 sentences)

### Possible Topics:

- How does the topic relate to you?
- How does the topic relate to the world?
- What did you find interesting? What is your opinion on the topic?
- Is this topic important or significant to think about in our world? Why?

### Sentence Starters:

I agree with the author that .....

This issue is important in our world today because .....

The author brings up a good point because ....

This issue connects to my own life because ....

This author is wrong about this topic because .....