

English 3 CP
Summer Reading Assignment

Before reading the short story “Harrison Bergeron” and the accompanying articles, please read Mortimer Adler’s “How to Mark a Book” (1940). This article details the necessity of and specific practices you should use to annotate the assigned articles and short story.

- http://academics.keene.edu/tmendham/documents/AdlerMortimerHowToMarkABook_20060802.pdf

Please read the following articles and short story:

- “Fresh Hell” by Laura Miller. This article is a review of the film *The Hunger Games*. http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2010/06/14/100614crat_atlarge_miller
- “Outdoors and Out of Reach, Studying the Brain” by Matt Richtel. This article examines technology’s impact on our brains. http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/16/technology/16brain.html?_r=2&ref=yourbrainoncomputers
- “Virtual Pleasures: Many Young People Prefer Pleasure-Seeking to Politics – but for How Long?” This article discusses real-life trends depicted in the classic novel *Brave New World*. http://www.economist.com/node/13062236?story_id=13062236
- “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut. This short story is about a dystopian society in which everyone has been made “equal.” <http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/harrison.html>

You have received copies of the necessary documents. All documents are available on RBR’s website, should you need an additional copy.

When you return to school, you will write an essay using the works you read over the summer. Answers to the following questions are due on the first day of class. Answers should be in the form of a well-written paragraph with at least two quotations from the text used as support for each question.

1. How is the short story “Harrison Bergeron” related to our society?
2. What should be the goal of any society?
3. Who should have power over individual freedoms and how should this be maintained?
4. What role does the individual play in this society? How is that individual defined?
5. What role does technology play in our lives? What are the positive and negative aspects of technology?

In previous years, a few students decided to copy each other’s answers and then claim that they were working in a “group”. Students must answer all questions independently. Any answers that are the same will be considered plagiarism and the assignment will receive a zero.