

Unit 2: Nonfiction & Literary Criticism

Nonfiction Book Selection

- **Review** the list of potential nonfiction choices below.
- **Make a selection** of which book you'd like to read for this unit; research if necessary.

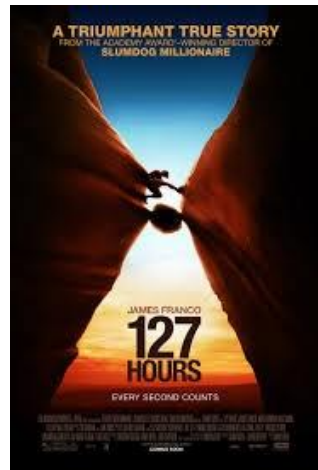
****Note:** you will be using this book, and/or its topics, implicitly & explicitly, in several upcoming course assignments, including an Annotated Bibliography and Compare & Contrast Essay. Select accordingly.**

127 Hours

By: Aron Ralston

Topics/Themes:

Survival
Adventure
Courage
Identity
Resilience



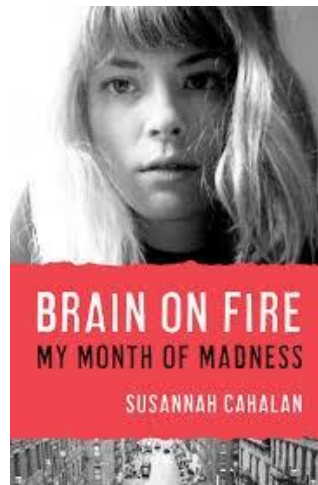
Aron Ralston, an experienced twenty-seven-year-old outdoorsman, was on a day's solitary hike through a remote and narrow Utah canyon when he dislodged an eight-hundred-pound boulder that crushed his right hand and wrist against the canyon wall. Emerging from the searing pain, Aron found himself completely stuck. No one knew where he was; no one was coming to rescue him. With scant water and food, and a cheap pocket knife his only tool, he eliminated his options one by one. On the fifth night, wracked by delirium and uncontrollable shivers, Aron scratched his epitaph into the rock wall, certain he would not see daylight. Yet with the new morning came an epiphany: if he could use the rock's vise-like hold to break his arm bones, his blunted pocket knife could serve as a surgeon's blade. . . .

Brain on Fire

By: Susannah Cahalan

Topics/Themes:

Overcoming Obstacles
Mental Health
Memory
Identity
Family



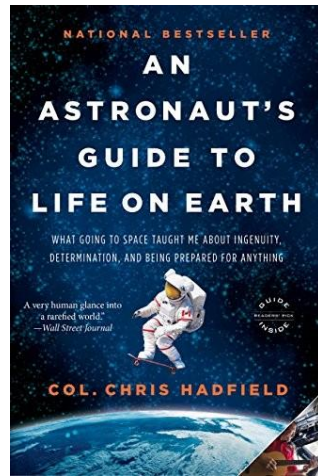
When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened? In a swift and breathtaking narrative, Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family's inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen. "A fascinating look at the disease that . . . could have cost this vibrant, vital young woman her life" (People), Brain on Fire is an unforgettable exploration of memory and identity, faith and love, and a profoundly compelling tale of survival and perseverance that is destined to become a classic.

An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth

By: Chris Hadfield

Topics/Themes:

Space Exploration
Astronaut Training
Pursuit of Dreams



As Commander of the International Space Station, Chris Hadfield captivated the world with stunning photos and commentary from space. Now, in his first book, Chris offers readers extraordinary stories from his life as an astronaut, and shows how to make the impossible a reality.

Chris Hadfield decided to become an astronaut after watching the Apollo moon landing with his family on Stag Island, Ontario, when he was nine years old, and it was impossible for Canadians to be astronauts. In 2013, he served as Commander of the International Space Station orbiting the Earth during a five-month mission. Fulfilling this lifelong dream required intense focus, natural ability and a singular commitment to “thinking like an astronaut.” In *An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth*, Chris gives us a rare insider’s perspective on just what that kind of thinking involves, and how earthbound humans can use it to achieve success and happiness in their lives. Astronaut training turns popular wisdom about how to be successful on its head. Instead of visualizing victory, astronauts prepare for the worst; always sweat the small stuff, and do care what others think. Chris shows how this unique education comes into play with dramatic anecdotes about going blind during a spacewalk, getting rid of a live snake while piloting a plane, and docking with space station Mir when laser tracking systems fail at the critical moment. Along the way, he shares exhilarating experiences, and challenges, from his 144 days on the ISS, and provides an unforgettable answer to his most-asked question: What’s it *really* like in outer space?

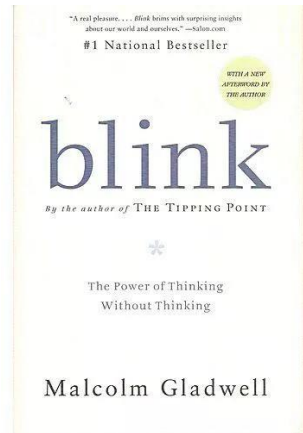
Written with humour, humility and a profound optimism for the future of space exploration, *An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth* offers readers not just the inspiring story of one man’s journey to the ISS, but the opportunity to step into his space-boots and think like an astronaut—and renew their commitment to pursuing their own dreams, big or small.

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking

By: Malcolm Gladwell

Topics/Themes:

Psychology
Brain
Instincts
Neurology



In his landmark bestseller *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell redefined how we understand the world around us. Now, in *Blink*, he revolutionizes the way we understand the world within. *Blink* is a book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant-in the blink of an eye-that actually aren't as simple as they seem.

Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and win, while others end up stumbling into error? How do our brains really work-in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen, and in the bedroom? And why are the best decisions often those that are impossible to explain to others?

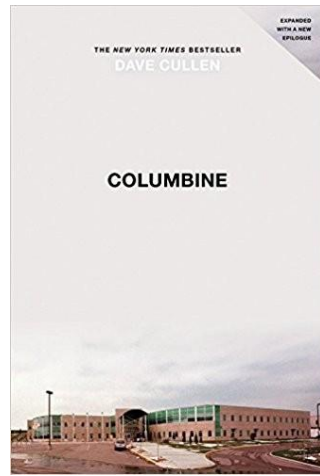
In *Blink* we meet the psychologist who has learned to predict whether a marriage will last, based on a few minutes of observing a couple; the tennis coach who knows when a player will double-fault before the racket even makes contact with the ball; the antiquities experts who recognize a fake at a glance. Here, too, are great failures of "blink": the election of Warren Harding; "New Coke"; and the shooting of Amadou Diallo by police. *Blink* reveals that great decision makers aren't those who process the most information or spend the most time deliberating, but those who have perfected the art of "thin-slicing"-filtering the very few factors that matter from an overwhelming number of variables.

Columbine

By: David Cullen

Topics/Themes:

Youth Violence
Gun Control
School Culture
Bullying
Mental Health
School Shootings



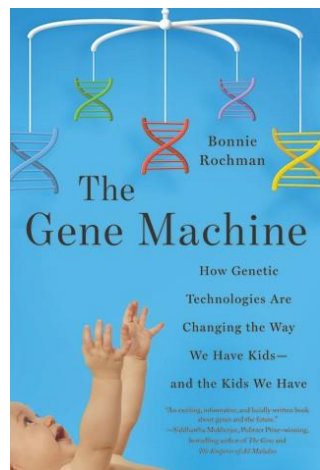
Ten years in the making and a masterpiece of reportage, "Columbine" is an award-winning journalist's definitive account of one of the most shocking massacres in American history. It is driven by two questions: what drove these killers, and what did they do to this town? "On April 20, 1999, two boys left an indelible stamp on the American psyche. Their goal was simple: to blow up their school, Oklahoma City-style, and to leave a lasting impression on the world. Their bombs failed, but the ensuing shooting defined a new era of school violence-irrevocably branding every subsequent shooting 'another Columbine. COLUMBINE is destined to be a classic. A close-up portrait of violence, a community rendered helpless, and police blunders and cover-ups, it is a compelling and utterly human portrait of two killers-an unforgettable cautionary tale for our time."

The Gene Machine

By: Bonnie Rochman

Topics/Themes:

Biology
Genetics
Ethics
Medicine
Family
Human Genome



Is DNA testing a triumph of modern medicine or a Pandora's box of possibilities? Is screening for disease in an embryo a humane form of family planning or a slippery slope toward eugenics? And, more practically, how do we navigate the dizzying and expanding array of tests available, with more appearing every day?

In *The Gene Machine*, the award-winning journalist Bonnie Rochman addresses these questions and more, guiding us through the new frontiers of gene technology and how it has forever changed medicine, bioethics, and the factors that shape a family. Rochman takes an authoritative look at the latest hot-button issues in the world of pre- and postnatal testing and tells the stories of women and men struggling to understand the variety of tests and grappling with their results—revelations that are sometimes joyous, sometimes heartbreaking, and often profound.

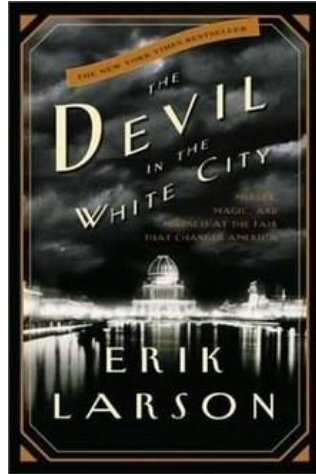
Propelled by human narratives and meticulously reported, *The Gene Machine* introduces us to scientists working to unlock the secrets of the human genome; gene counselors and spiritual advisers helping parents manage this complex new reality; and, of course, parents themselves, including the author, who glimpse the genetic futures of their children. *The Gene Machine* is both a scientific road map and a meditation on our power to shape the future, one that gets to the very core of what it means to be human.

Devil in the White City

By: Erik Larson

Topics/Themes:

**Criminal Mind
Architecture
History
Psychopaths**



Two men, each handsome and unusually adept at his chosen work, embodied an element of the great dynamic that characterized America's rush toward the twentieth century. The architect was Daniel Hudson Burnham, the fair's brilliant director of works and the builder of many of the country's most important structures, including the Flatiron Building in New York and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his "World's Fair Hotel" just west of the fairgrounds—a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium. Burnham overcame tremendous obstacles and tragedies as he organized the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Louis Sullivan, and others to transform swampy Jackson Park into the White City, while Holmes used the attraction of the great fair and his own satanic charms to lure scores of young women to their deaths. What makes the story all the more chilling is that Holmes really lived, walking the grounds of that dream city by the lake.

The Devil in the White City draws the reader into a time of magic and majesty, made all the more appealing by a supporting cast of real-life characters, including Buffalo Bill, Theodore Dreiser, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and others. In this book the smoke, romance, and mystery of the Gilded Age come alive as never before.

Gang Leader for a Day

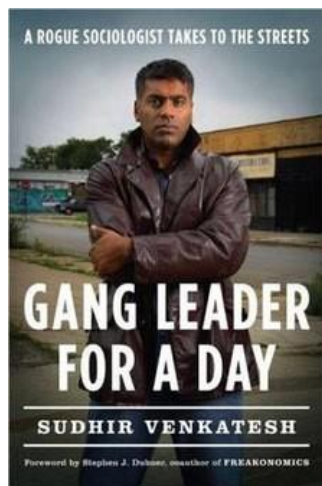
By: Sudhir Venkatesh

Topics/Themes:

Sociology
Gang Leadership
Drug Culture
Poverty

** not a fast-paced action book:
more of a sociological study

** mature content



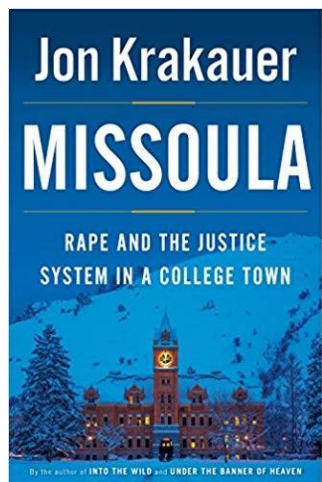
When first-year graduate student Sudhir Venkatesh walked into an abandoned building in one of Chicago's most notorious housing projects, he hoped to find a few people willing to take a multiple-choice survey on urban poverty--and impress his professors with his boldness. He never imagined that as a result of this assignment he would befriend a gang leader named JT and spend the better part of a decade embedded inside the projects under JT's protection. From a privileged position of unprecedented access, Venkatesh observed JT and the rest of his gang as they operated their crack-selling business, made peace with their neighbors, evaded the law, and rose up or fell within the ranks of the gang's complex hierarchical structure. Examining the morally ambiguous, highly intricate, and often corrupt struggle to survive in an urban war zone, *Gang Leader for a Day* also tells the story of the complicated friendship that develops between Venkatesh and JT--two young and ambitious men a universe apart.

Missoula

By: Jon Krakauer

Topics/Themes:

Criminal Justice System
Women's Rights
Identity
PSTD
College Campus Life
Male/Female
Relationships



Missoula, Montana, is a typical college town, with a highly regarded state university, bucolic surroundings, a lively social scene, and an excellent football team – the Grizzlies – with a rabid fan base. The Department of Justice investigated 350 sexual assaults reported to the Missoula police between January 2008 and May 2012. Few of these assaults were properly handled by either the university or local authorities. In this, Missoula is also typical.

In *Missoula*, Krakauer chronicles the searing experiences of several women in Missoula – the nights when they were raped; their fear and self-doubt in the aftermath; the way they were treated by the police, prosecutors, defense attorneys; the public vilification and private anguish; their bravery in pushing forward and what it cost them.

Krakauer's dispassionate, carefully documented account of what these women endured cuts through the abstract ideological debate about campus rape. College-age women are not raped because they are promiscuous, or drunk, or send mixed signals, or feel guilty about casual sex, or seek attention. They are the victims

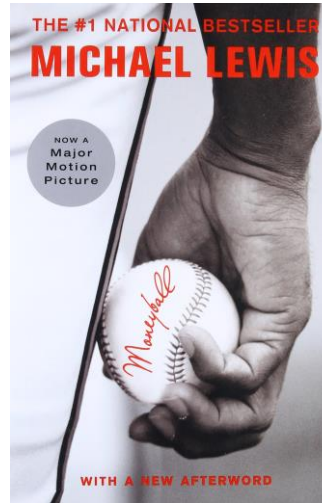
of a terrible crime and deserving of compassion from society and fairness from a justice system that is clearly broken.

Moneyball

By: Michael Lewis

Topics/Themes:

Statistics
Baseball
Big Business
Teambuilding



Moneyball is a quest for something as elusive as the Holy Grail, something that money apparently can't buy: the secret of success in baseball. The logical places to look would be the front offices of major league teams, and the dugouts, perhaps even in the minds of the players themselves. Lewis mines all these possibilities—his intimate and original portraits of big league ballplayers are alone worth the price of admission—but the real jackpot is a cache of numbers—numbers!—collected over the years by a strange brotherhood of amateur baseball enthusiasts: software engineers, statisticians, Wall Street analysts, lawyers, and physics professors.

What these geek numbers show—no, prove—is that the traditional yardsticks of success for players and teams are fatally flawed. Even the box score misleads us by ignoring the crucial importance of the humble base-on-balls. This information has been around for years, and nobody inside Major League Baseball paid it any mind. And then came Billy Beane, General Manager of the Oakland Athletics.

Billy paid attention to those numbers —with the second lowest payroll in baseball at his disposal he had to—and this book records his astonishing experiment in finding and fielding a team that nobody else wanted. *Moneyball* is a roller coaster ride: before the 2002 season opens, Oakland must relinquish its three most prominent (and expensive) players, is written off by just about everyone, and then comes roaring back to challenge the American League record for consecutive wins.

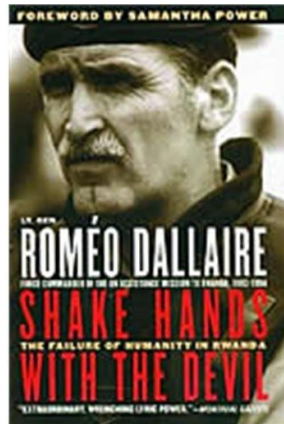
In a narrative full of fabulous characters and brilliant excursions into the unexpected, Michael Lewis shows us how and why the new baseball knowledge works. He also sets up a sly and hilarious morality tale: Big Money, like Goliath, is always supposed to win...how can we not cheer for David?

Shake Hands with the Devil

By: Romeo Dallaire

Topics/Themes:

Genocide
Prejudice
PeaceKeeping
Military
PSTD



When Lt-Gen. Roméo Dallaire received the call to serve as force commander of the UN intervention in Rwanda in 1993, he thought he was heading off on a modest and straightforward peacekeeping mission. Thirteen months later he flew home from Africa, broken, disillusioned and suicidal, having witnessed the slaughter of 800,000 Rwandans in only a hundred days. In *Shake Hands with the Devil*, he takes the reader with him on a return voyage into the hell of Rwanda, vividly recreating the events the international community turned its back on. This book is an unsparing eyewitness account of the failure by humanity to stop the genocide, despite timely warnings.

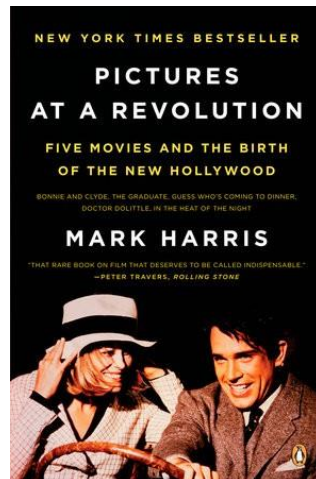
Woven through the story of this disastrous mission is Dallaire's own journey from confident Cold Warrior, to devastated UN commander, to a retired general engaged in a painful struggle to find a measure of peace, reconciliation and hope. This book is General Dallaire's personal account of his conversion from a man certain of his worth and secure in his assumptions to a man conscious of his own weaknesses and failures and critical of the institutions he'd relied on. It might not sit easily with standard ideas of military leadership, but understanding what happened to General Dallaire and his mission to Rwanda is crucial to understanding the moral minefields our peacekeepers are forced to negotiate when we ask them to step into the world's dirty wars.

Pictures at a Revolution

By: Mark Harris

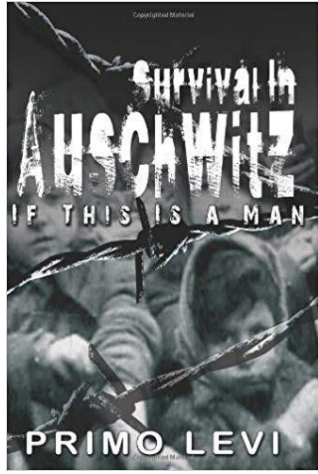
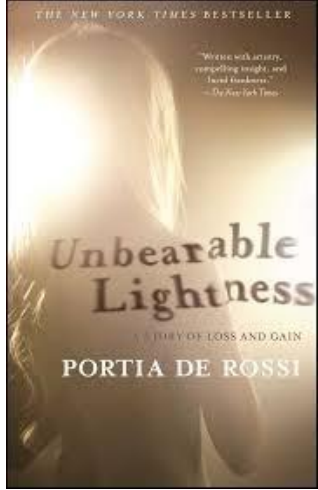
Topics/Themes:

Film Industry
Cultural Revolution
Society in Film



The New York Times bestseller that follows the making of five films at a pivotal time in Hollywood history

In the mid-1960s, westerns, war movies, and blockbuster musicals like *Mary Poppins* swept the box office. The Hollywood studio system was astonishingly lucrative for the few who dominated the business. That is, until the tastes of American moviegoers radically- and unexpectedly- changed. By the Oscar ceremonies of 1968, a cultural revolution had hit Hollywood with the force of a tsunami, and films like *Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Graduate*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and box-office bomb *Doctor Doolittle* signaled a change in Hollywood-and America. And as an entire industry changed and struggled, careers were suddenly made and ruined, studios grew and crumbled, and the landscape of filmmaking was altered beyond all recognition.

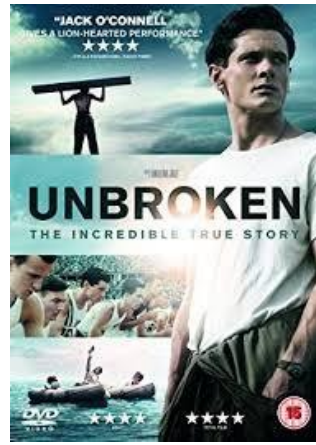
<p><i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> By: Primo Levi</p> <p>Topics/Themes:</p> <p>Holocaust Power of Human Spirit Courage World War II</p>		<p>The true and harrowing account of Primo Levi’s experience at the German concentration camp of Auschwitz and his miraculous survival; hailed by <i>The Times Literary Supplement</i> as a “true work of art, this edition includes an exclusive conversation between the author and Philip Roth.</p> <p>In 1943, Primo Levi, a twenty-five-year-old chemist and “Italian citizen of Jewish race,” was arrested by Italian fascists and deported from his native Turin to Auschwitz. <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> is Levi’s classic account of his ten months in the German death camp, a harrowing story of systematic cruelty and miraculous endurance. Remarkable for its simplicity, restraint, compassion, and even wit, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i> remains a lasting testament to the indestructibility of the human spirit. Included in this new edition is an illuminating conversation between Philip Roth and Primo Levi never before published in book form.</p>
<p><i>Unbearable Lightness</i> By: Portia de Rossi</p> <p>Topics/Themes:</p> <p>LGBTQ Issues Eating Disorders Identity/Esteem Food Body Image</p>		<p>Portia de Rossi weighed only 82 pounds when she collapsed on the set of the Hollywood film in which she was playing her first leading role. This should have been the culmination of all her years of hard work—first as a child model in Australia, then as a cast member of one of the hottest shows on American television. On the outside, she was thin and blond, glamorous and successful. On the inside, she was literally dying. In this searing, unflinchingly honest book, Portia de Rossi captures the complex emotional truth of what it is like when food, weight, and body image take priority over every other human impulse or action. She recounts the elaborate rituals around eating that came to dominate hours of every day, from keeping her daily calorie intake below 300 to eating precisely measured amounts of food out of specific bowls and only with certain utensils.</p>

Unbroken

By: Laura Hillenbrand

Topics/Themes:

World War 2
Delinquency
Courage
Overcoming Obstacles



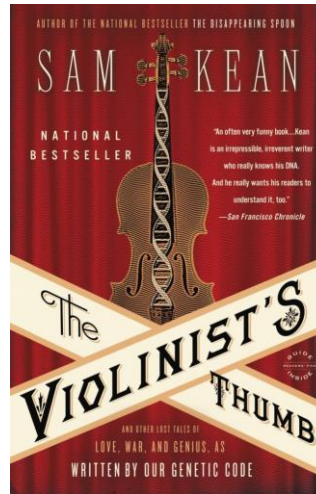
In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

The Violinist's Thumb

By: Sam Kean

Topics/Themes:

Genetics
History & Future of
Humans
Child Prodigy
Science



In *The Violinist's Thumb*, bestselling author Sam Kean explores the wonders of the magical building block of life: DNA.

There are genes to explain crazy cat ladies, why other people have no fingerprints, and why some people survive nuclear bombs. Genes illuminate everything from JFK's bronze skin (it wasn't a tan) to Einstein's genius. They prove that Neanderthals and humans bred thousands of years more recently than any of us would feel comfortable thinking. They can even allow some people, because of the exceptional flexibility of their thumbs and fingers, to become truly singular violinists.

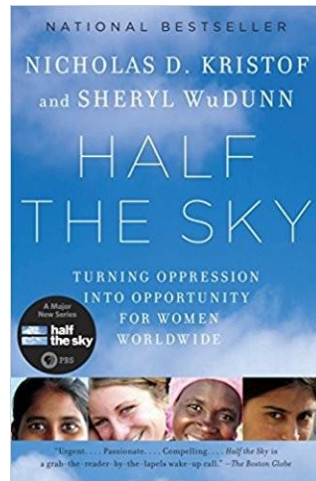
Kean's vibrant storytelling once again makes science entertaining, explaining human history and whimsy while showing how DNA will influence our species' future.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide.

By: Nicolas Kristoff,
Sheryl Wu Dunn

Topics/Themes:

Social Justice
Development Issues
Women
Global Focus



From two of our most fiercely moral voices, a passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

They show how a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad. That Cambodian girl eventually escaped from her brothel and, with assistance from an aid group, built a thriving retail business that supports her family. The Ethiopian woman had her injuries repaired and in time became a surgeon. A Zimbabwean mother of five, counseled to return to school, earned her doctorate and became an expert on AIDS.

Through these stories, Kristof and WuDunn help us see that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women's potential. They make clear how so many people have helped to do just that, and how we can each do our part. Throughout much of the world, the greatest unexploited economic resource is the female half of the population. Countries such as China have prospered precisely because they emancipated women and brought them into the formal economy. Unleashing that process globally is not only the right thing to do; it's also the best strategy for fighting poverty.

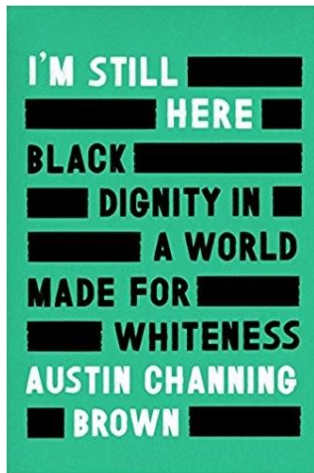
Deeply felt, pragmatic, and inspirational, *Half the Sky* is essential reading for every global citizen

***I'm Still Here:
Black Dignity
in a World
Made for
Whiteness***

By: Austin Channing
Brown

Topics/Themes:

Social Justice
Race
America
Religion
Inclusion



Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with a racialized America came at age 7, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, Austin writes, "I had to learn what it means to love blackness," a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America's racial divide as a writer, speaker and expert who helps organizations practice genuine inclusion.

In a time when nearly all institutions (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claim to value "diversity" in their mission statements, *I'm Still Here* is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words. Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric--from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations.

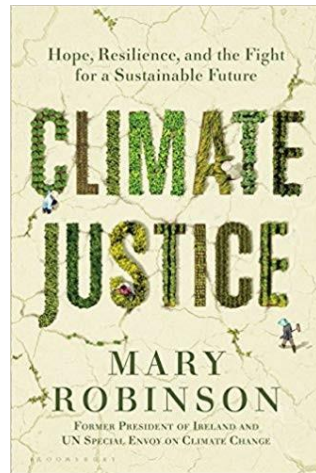
For readers who have engaged with America's legacy on race through the writing of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michael Eric Dyson, *I'm Still Here* is an illuminating look at how white, middle-class, Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how blackness--if we let it--can save us all.

Climate Justice

By: Mary Robinson

Topics/Themes:

Climate Change
Science
Positive Change
Global Perspectives



The antidote for your climate change paralysis. —*Sierra Magazine*

An urgent call to arms by one of the most important voices in the international fight against climate change, sharing inspiring stories and offering vital lessons for the path forward.

Holding her first grandchild in her arms in 2003, Mary Robinson was struck by the uncertainty of the world he had been born into. Before his fiftieth birthday, he would share the planet with more than nine billion people--people battling for food, water, and shelter in an increasingly volatile climate. The faceless, shadowy menace of climate change had become, in an instant, deeply personal.

Mary Robinson's mission would lead her all over the world, from Malawi to Mongolia, and to a heartening revelation: that an irrepressible driving force in the battle for climate justice could be found at the grassroots level, mainly among women, many of them mothers and grandmothers like herself. From Sharon Hanshaw, the Mississippi matriarch whose campaign began in her East Biloxi hair salon and culminated in her speaking at the United Nations, to Constance Okollet, a small farmer who transformed the fortunes of her ailing community in rural Uganda, Robinson met with ordinary people whose resilience and ingenuity had already unlocked extraordinary change.

Powerful and deeply humane, *Climate Justice* is a stirring manifesto on one of the most pressing humanitarian issues of our time, and a lucid, affirmative, and well-argued case for hope.

“As an advocate for the forgotten and the ignored, Mary Robinson has not only shone a light on human suffering, but illuminated a better future for our world.”

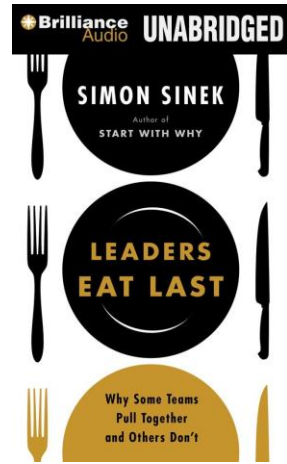
-Barack Obama

Leaders Eat Last

By: Simon Sinek

Topics/Themes:

Leadership
Business
Teamwork
Personal Growth



The highly anticipated follow-up to Simon Sinek's global bestseller *Start with Why*

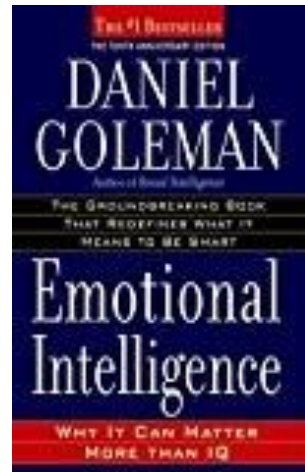
Simon Sinek is an optimist, a visionary thinker, and a leader of the cultural revolution of WHY. His second book is the natural extension of *Start with Why*, expanding his ideas at the organizational level. Determining a company's WHY is crucial, but only the beginning. The next step is how do you get people on board with your WHY? How do you inspire deep trust and commitment to the company and one another? He cites the Marine Corps for having found a way to build a culture in which men and women are willing to risk their lives, because they know others would do the same for them. It's not brainwashing; it's actually based on the biology of how and when people are naturally at their best. If businesses could adopt this supportive mentality, employees would be more motivated to take bigger risks, because they'd know their colleagues and company would back them up, no matter what. Drawing on powerful and inspiring stories, Sinek shows how to sustain an organization's WHY while continually adding people to the mix.

Emotional Intelligence

By: Daniel Goleman

Topics/Themes:

Psychology
Relationships
Teams
Business
Personal Growth
Success



Everyone knows that high IQ is no guarantee of success, happiness, or virtue, but until **Emotional Intelligence**, we could only guess why. Daniel Goleman's brilliant report from the frontiers of psychology and neuroscience offers startling new insight into our "two minds"—the rational and the emotional—and how they together shape our destiny.

Through vivid examples, Goleman delineates the five crucial skills of emotional intelligence, and shows how they determine our success in relationships, work, and even our physical well-being. What emerges is an entirely new way to talk about being smart.

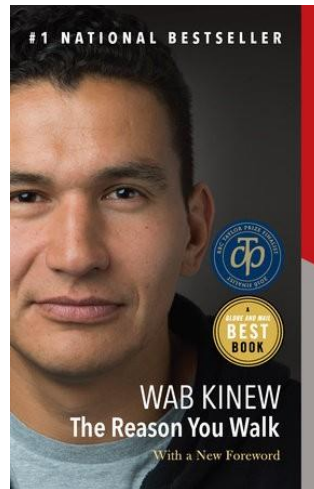
The best news is that "emotional literacy" is not fixed early in life. Every parent, every teacher, every business leader, and everyone interested in a more civil society, has a stake in this compelling vision of human possibility.

The Reason You Walk

By: Wab Kinew

Topics/Themes:

Identity
Father/Son Relationships
Addiction
Indigenous Issues
Residential Schools
Forgiveness



A moving father-son reconciliation told by a charismatic First Nations broadcaster, musician and activist.

When his father was given a diagnosis of terminal cancer, Winnipeg broadcaster and musician Wab Kinew decided to spend a year reconnecting with the accomplished but distant aboriginal man who'd raised him. *The Reason You Walk* spans the year 2012, chronicling painful moments in the past and celebrating renewed hopes and dreams for the future. As Kinew revisits his own childhood in Winnipeg and on a reserve in Northern Ontario, he learns more about his father's traumatic childhood at residential school. An intriguing doubleness marks *The Reason You Walk*, a reference to an Anishinaabe ceremonial song. Born to an Anishinaabe father and a non-native mother, he has a foot in both cultures. He is a Sundancer, an academic, a former rapper, a hereditary chief, and an urban activist. His father, Tobasonakwut, was both a beloved traditional chief and a respected elected leader who engaged directly with Ottawa. Internally divided, his father embraced both traditional native religion and Catholicism, the religion that was inculcated into him at the residential school where he was physically and sexually abused. In a grand gesture of reconciliation, Kinew's father invited the Roman Catholic bishop of Winnipeg to a Sundance ceremony in which he adopted him as his brother. Kinew writes affectingly of his own struggles in his twenties to find the right path, eventually giving up a self-destructive lifestyle to passionately pursue music and martial arts. From his unique vantage point, he offers an inside view of what it means to be an educated aboriginal living in a country that is just beginning to wake up to its aboriginal history and living presence.

Invoking hope, healing and forgiveness, *The Reason You Walk* is a poignant story of a towering but damaged father and his son as they embark on a journey to repair their family bond. By turns lighthearted and solemn, Kinew gives us an inspiring vision for family and cross-cultural reconciliation, and a wider conversation about the future of aboriginal peoples

Excellent Daughters: The Secret Lives of Young Women Who are Transforming the Arab World.

By: Katherine Zoepf

Topics/Themes:

Islam
Women's Role
Arab Societies
Journalism
Cultural Change
Human Rights



"Shocking and moving... [Zoepf] understands[] these women's lives on their own terms." —*The New York Times Book Review*

**EXCELLENT
DAUGHTERS**

THE SECRET LIVES of YOUNG
WOMEN WHO ARE TRANSFORMING
THE ARAB WORLD

KATHERINE ZOEPF

For more than a decade, Katherine Zoepf has lived in or traveled throughout the Arab world, reporting on the lives of women, whose role in the region has never been more in flux. Only a generation ago, female adolescence as we know it in the West did not exist in the Middle East. There were only children and married women. Today, young Arab women outnumber men in universities, and a few are beginning to face down religious and social tradition in order to live independently, to delay marriage, and to pursue professional goals. Hundreds of thousands of devout girls and women are attending Qur'anic schools—and using the training to argue for greater rights and freedoms from an Islamic perspective. And, in 2011, young women helped to lead anti-government protests in the Arab Spring. But their voices have not been heard. Their stories have not been told.

In Syria, before its civil war, she documents a complex society in the midst of soul searching about its place in the world and about the role of women. In Lebanon, she documents a country that on the surface is freer than other Arab nations but whose women must balance extreme standards of self-presentation with Islamic codes of virtue. In Abu Dhabi, Zoepf reports on a generation of Arab women who've found freedom in work outside the home. In Saudi Arabia she chronicles driving protests and women entering the retail industry for the first time. In the aftermath of Tahrir Square, she examines the crucial role of women in Egypt's popular uprising.

Deeply informed, heartfelt, and urgent, *Excellent Daughters* brings us a new understanding of the changing Arab societies—from 9/11 to Tahrir Square to the rise of ISIS—and gives voice to the remarkable women at the forefront of this change.

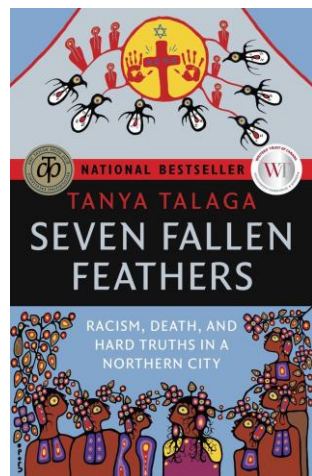
Seven Fallen Feathers

By: Tanya Talaga

Topics/Themes:

Youth
Identity

Cultural Genocide
Mental Health
Human Rights
Suicide



In 1966, twelve-year-old Chanie Wenjack froze to death on the railway tracks after running away from residential school. An inquest was called and four recommendations were made to prevent another tragedy. None of those recommendations were applied.

More than a quarter of a century later, from 2000 to 2011, seven Indigenous high school students died in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The seven were hundreds of miles away from their families, forced to leave home and live in a foreign and unwelcoming city. Five were found dead in the rivers surrounding Lake Superior, below a sacred Indigenous site. Jordan Wabasse, a gentle boy and star hockey player, disappeared into the minus twenty degrees Celsius night. The body of celebrated artist Norval Morrisseau's grandson, Kyle, was pulled from a river, as was Curran Strang's. Robyn Harper died in her boarding-house hallway and Paul Panacheese inexplicably collapsed on his kitchen floor. Reggie Bushie's death finally prompted an inquest, seven years after the discovery of Jethro Anderson, the first boy whose body was found in the water.

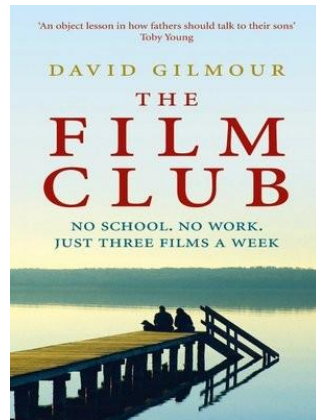
Using a sweeping narrative focusing on the lives of the students, award-winning investigative journalist Tanya Talaga delves into the history of this small northern city that has come to manifest Canada's long struggle with human rights violations against Indigenous communities.

The Film Club

By: David Gilmour

Topics/Themes:

Education
Coming of Age
Father/Son
Film



From the 2005 winner of the Governor-General's Award for Fiction and the former national film critic for CBC television comes a delightful and absorbing book about the agonies and joys of home-schooling a beloved son. Written in the spare elegant style he is known for, *The Film Club* is the true story about David Gilmour's decision to let his 15-year-old son drop out of high school on the condition that the boy agrees to watch three films a week with him. The book examines how those pivotal years changed both their lives.

From French New Wave, Kurosawa, and New German cinema, to De Palma, film noir, Cronenberg and Billy Wilder, among many others from world cinema, we read about key moments in each film, as the author teaches his son about life and the vagaries of growing up through the power of the movies. Replete with page-turning descriptions of scenes and actors and directors, the narrative is framed with the tender story of his son's first bittersweet first loves.

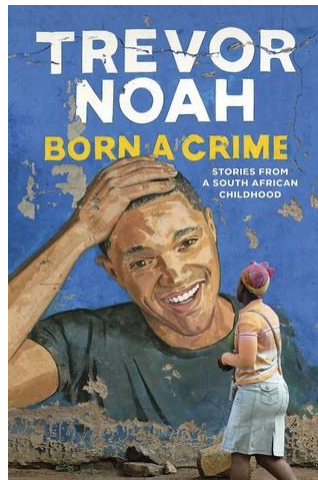
This is a charming and poignant story about a very special time in a father and son's relationship. David Gilmour is a novelist who has earned critical praise from literary figures as diverse as William Burroughs and Northrop Frye, and from publications as different as the New York Times to People magazine. The author of six novels, he also hosted the award-winning Gilmour on the Arts. He lives in Toronto with his wife Tina Gladstone.

Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood

By: Trevor Noah

Topics/Themes:

Race
Identity
Family & Community
Poverty
Resilience



Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

[Nonfiction Comparative Essay](#)

- your essay will be evaluated with this [Rubric](#)

Please refer to the following slides for more detailed steps and exemplars:

[Essay Types](#)

[C&C Essay Writing Lesson](#)

[Essay Writing Lessons](#)

[Comparative Essay \(Intro/Thesis Exemplars\)](#)

***All rough work must be submitted to the Dropbox, along with the polished final copy.

Brainstorming:

- mind map, rough notes, tables, brainstorming etc
- [Venn Diagram V1](#)
- [Venn Diagram V2](#)

Thesis Development:

- develop a [Guiding Question Brainstorming](#)

Essay Structure and Organization:

- read this [overview](#)
- point by point structure is preferred
- complete an [Essay Outline](#) such as this one, before you begin to write

Essay Writing:

- write your rough draft (save a copy of this and label as Rough Draft)
- revise/edit your rough draft using this [self-edit checklist](#)
- check for proper [MLA Formatting](#)
- create a polished final draft

Non-Fiction Text & The Annotated Bibliography

Your non-fiction text raises and/or addresses problematic, critical issues that are relevant to our society today. By now you should be well into your text, and should be nearing the end. You've had opportunities to think critically about the topics and issues presented in your text: you have been reading actively & annotating. You are going to select a problematic social issue raised in your book, for further investigation. Find four additional, reputable research sources; create an annotated bibliography for TWO of these FOUR sources.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: THE DETAILS

1. Select ONE topic that is addressed or presented in your nonfiction book. This will form the basis of your research. Here are some potential options for you to consider:

Please note: you can choose ANY topic that is relevant to your non-fiction text - this list is meant as a potential starting point for you. By no means are you limited to these suggestions)

NONFICTION BOOK	POSSIBLE TOPICS
<i>127 Hours</i>	Survival or Adventure
<i>An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth</i>	Space Exploration or Pursuit of Dreams
<i>Blink</i>	Instincts or Neurology
<i>Born A Crime</i>	Racism or Poverty
<i>Brain on Fire</i>	Mental Health or Memory & Identity
<i>Climate Justice</i>	Climate Change or Global Perspectives
<i>Columbine</i>	Gun Violence or Mental Health
<i>Devil in the White City</i>	Architecture or The Criminal Mind
<i>Emotional Intelligence</i>	Relationships or Personal Wellbeing

<i>Excellent Daughters</i>	Women's Rights or Cultural Traditions
<i>The Film Club</i>	Education or Coming of Age
<i>Gang Leader for a Day</i>	Poverty or Drug Culture
<i>The Gene Machine</i>	Genetic Manipulation or Medical Ethics
<i>Half the Sky</i>	Social Justice or Women's Rights
<i>I'm Still Here</i>	Racism or Social Justice
<i>Leaders Eat Last</i>	Personal Growth or Business Leadership
<i>Missoula</i>	The Justice System or Women's Rights
<i>Moneyball</i>	Statistics or Baseball
<i>Shake Hands with the Devil</i>	Genocide or The Military & Peacekeeping
<i>Pictures at a Revolution</i>	Cultural Revolution or Hollywood Film Industry
<i>The Reason You Walk</i>	Indigenous Identity or Reconciliation Process
<i>Seven Fallen Feathers</i>	Indigenous Youth Identity or Reconciliation Process
<i>Shake Hands With the Devil</i>	Genocide or Millitary Peacekeeping
<i>Survival in Auschwitz</i>	Genocide or The Power of the Human Spirit
<i>Unbearable Lightness</i>	LGBTQ Issues or Eating Disorders
<i>Unbroken</i>	Humans at War or Delinquency
<i>The Violinist's Thumb</i>	Genetics or History & Future of Humans

2. If not immediately obvious -- as the topic itself -- **think of a problem or issue** related to this topic that is negatively impacting people, globally or locally, today.
3. **Research** your topic, and find 4 credible text-based (not video) sources (other than your nonfiction book itself) that will help to generally inform you about the current state of your chosen topic, **and** expand your sense of the problem/issue you identified. One of these sources **MUST** be from a Journal (see [slides](#) on how

to create an Annotated Bibliography and Databases). Use research skills & source credibility assessment skills taught.

4. Read your 4 sources to expand your sense of why your issue is in need of attention, solution, & support, and what that solution might look like.
5. In a Google Doc, create an **annotated bibliography** for only TWO of your FOUR sources. [Exemplar](#). Use MLA Formatting, & annotated bibliography skills taught.
6. **Submission Instructions:** Submission Instructions: have all 4 entries in one Google Doc and submit to the Dropbox (“Non-Fiction Text & The Annotated Bibliography”).
7. Your two entry annotated bibliography will be evaluated using this [Rubric](#). Check the rubric before starting and submitting work.

Nonfiction C&C Essay Assignment

Find a suitable area of comparison for analysis between your nonfiction book *and another text of your choosing*. You may not use another piece of course material but something outside of the course itself, such as a poem, movie, TV show, novel, short story, song lyrics, piece of art, podcast etc. Feel free to *be creative* in your selection. *Do not pick a film version of the text itself*.

Create a thesis, and write a formal, structured, [compare & contrast essay](#) that delves into the thematic, ideological, and/or stylistic elements that link the two sources, and have them differ, in an original fashion. Beyond finding a second text, this is not a research assignment -- your essay should demonstrate your original work & thought: no secondary sources are to be consulted.

Your essay should be 4-5 pages in length (1000-1250 words), double-spaced using 12 pt font (times new roman, calibri, cambria or alike); it should follow [MLA Citation.& Style](#) formatting guidelines, and should have reference to both texts to support your thesis. You are expected to use comparative essay structure (as discussed in class - point by point is preferable), PPE structure, and discussing the differences through similarities. [This is the rubric](#) that will be used to mark your work.

Steps to Follow:

1. Finish reading your nonfiction book.
2. Find and read/view another suitable text of your choosing.
3. Use [Venn Diagram #1](#) OR [Venn Diagram #2](#) to note similarities & differences between the texts and draw out your initial ideas. Save your diagram -- it will be submitted later. Feel free to use a similarly labelled rectangular chart, if desired.
4. Use the "From Topic to Essay" [Essay Writing](#) steps in the slides to create your rough work for the essay. Save your rough work -- it will be submitted later.
5. Create a **rough copy** as a first draft; revise & edit. **Save your rough copy as a separate document from your final copy** -- it will be submitted later.
6. Submit your polished final copy, along with any other planning documents (i.e., Venn Diagram, rough work, rough draft, self-editing sheets)

Requirements for Submission:

- **Polished Final/Good copy** along with **any rough work** (Venn Diagram, Planning Notes, Outlines, Rough Draft, Self/Peer editing) as evidence of the writing process in the "**Comparative Essay**" **Dropbox**.
- MLA Works Cited page for your TWO texts (check the MLA website if unsure)