

**HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING PROJECT 2025-2026
SENIOR ELECTIVES**

STUDENTS ENTERING INTO PUBLIC SPEAKING in the Fall Semester

Choose TWO of the following books to read over summer break. After you've selected and read the two books of your choosing, please **refer to the SUMMER READING PROJECT BOARD to fulfill the mandatory project.**

Public Speaking reading list	<p>The Art of Public Speaking by Dale Carnegie</p> <p>Talk Like Ted: The 9 Public-Speaking Secrets of the World's Top Minds by Carmine Gallo</p> <p>So You've Been Publicly Shamed by Jon Ronson</p> <p>Confessions of a Public Speaker by Scott Berkun</p> <p>Speak Like Churchill, Stand Like Lincoln by James C. Humes</p>
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- After reading any **TWO** books on the Summer Reading List above, choose **ONE box from EACH of the columns below** to respond to thoroughly.
 - COLUMN #1 should reference one of your choices
 - COLUMN #2 should reference the *other* choice
 - COLUMN #3 can be applied to *either* of the two, the choice is yours.
- Your responses should be in either a Google Doc or Google Slideshow for easy submission.
 - Label each response with the book title & column choice

***DUE: On the first day of school in your Public Speaking class;
This will count as a 100 point grade***

SUMMER READING PROJECT BOARD

COLUMN #1 Choose ONE to explore or discuss in depth	COLUMN #2 Choose ONE to explore or discuss in depth	COLUMN #3 Choose ONE to explore or discuss in depth
Task 1A: Locate a major topic that is examined within one of your chosen books. Discuss this topic, in depth, in relation to the overall plot of the text. Why is this topic important? In what ways do you relate to this topic? <i>Your response should be no less than two paragraphs in length.</i>	Task 2A: Write a book review for one of your chosen books. On a scale of 1-5, what would you rate this and why? Would you recommend this book to anyone? Why or why not? What was your favorite part? Least favorite part? <i>Your response should be no less than one paragraph in length, including a "star rating" and picture.</i>	Task 3A: Choose to write either a <i>prologue</i> (what happens <i>before</i> the book starts) or an <i>epilogue</i> (what happens after the book is completed). This should be both creative and relevant in relation to the plot of your chosen book. <i>Your response should be no less than two paragraphs in length.</i>
Task 1B: Discuss an overall <i>theme</i> (or message about life) that appears in your chosen book. How can this theme be relevant in today's society? <i>Your response should be no less than two paragraphs in length.</i>	Task 2B: Create a Google Slideshow presentation that displays the full plot of your chosen book. Your slideshow must include details regarding these stages of plot: exposition (background), rising action, climax, falling action, resolution (how the book ends). <i>Your presentation should be no less than 6 slides in length.</i>	Task 3B: Write a letter from the main character to another character of your chosen book. This letter can be about anything that makes sense within the parameters of the storyline. Your letter should have a proper greeting, body, and closing. <i>Your letter should be no less than two paragraphs in length.</i>
Task 1C: Make an argument for a specific topic that appears within your chosen book. Your response should include a valid claim and reasons that your claim is valid. <i>Your response should be no less than two paragraphs in length.</i>	Task 2C: Choose ONE of the following writing strategies that appears most often in your book to discuss in depth: conflict, characterization, setting, theme, imagery. <i>Your response should be no less than one paragraph in length.</i>	Task 3C: Create a book cover AND a back blurb for one of your chosen books. This should be both creative and accurate in relation to the storyline of your book. Your cover must include the title and author, one catchy quote that appears in the book, and a captivating picture. The back blurb should consist of a several-sentence "teaser" of the main events of the book.