

**Union-Endicott High School**  
AP English Language and Composition  
Summer Reading & Writing Project 2011  
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Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. As an introduction to the exciting world of rhetoric and college level writing, we are requiring you to complete a summer reading, writing and research project. All research and writing will start from a thorough understanding of the required texts so it is expected that you will thoughtfully read and annotate (with Post-it notes) these texts. Both texts are non-fiction so reading them will be a different experience from reading a novel.

**Reading:**

Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*

Dave Eggers' *Zeitoun*

**Writing Assignments:** You must complete the argument prompt for each book, as well as any one of the field research assignments.

**Field Research:**

Field Research should be tied directly to the readings. For instance, if you choose to interview a small businessperson, then you must discuss the similarities and differences between your interviewee and the man in the book. All material, including interview notes, pictures, outlines, and drafts, must be turned in. Keep in mind that this research may require an extended period of time to complete  
\*Additional information on the field research is on the back of this sheet.



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**Argument:**

Argument papers should be 250 words in length and clearly elucidate your stand on the topic. You must use evidence from the texts to back up your claims. It is crucial that you adhere to the word limit of this assignment. Part of being a good writer is being a concise writer. A few helpful hints: 1. Challenge yourself to use verbs of action rather than verbs of being. 2. Avoid adverbs whenever possible. 3. Get feedback from someone who is going to give you real feedback.

## *Zeitoun*

## *Nickel and Dimed*

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### Field Research:

- Interview an imam.
- Interview a local small businessperson.
- Interview somebody who was severely affected by one of our recent floods.

### Argument:

- Who is to blame for what happened to Zeitoun?

### Field Research:

- Interview a waitress.
- Observe and track the changes in a seasonal or clothing display at Wal\*Mart.
- Interview a maid from a local cleaning service.

### Argument:

- Should there be a living wage?
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## **Academic Expectations**

Selecting this course shows that you are an exceptional student. We trust your instincts and abilities and expect that you will always do your own work. Please avoid the temptation to borrow ideas and content from the Internet and other sources. We know that you can be successful on your own.

### **Field Research Requirements:**

- All material must be turned in including a complete record of any interview that you conduct or data that you gather. Be sure to note the date, time and duration of your interview.
- If you record an interview, then you must transcribe it. Do not hand in recordings.
- The questions that you develop for your interview must relate to issues raised in the books. For instance, if you interview an imam, then at least one of your questions should address the issue of prejudice against Muslims in the United States. If you interview a waitress, you should be sure to ask about working conditions. **Additional guidance for the field research paper will be available on the classroom's summer pages.**
- Your final paper should include a section for your data and a section for your conclusions.