

Do Hard Things
By Alex & Brett Harris
Writing Assignment – 2010

General guidelines:

1. Each student must write a three-page paper based upon the guidelines below.
2. Label the paper in the upper right hand corner with the following information:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Name | Example: | Jane Doe |
| Grade Level | | 11 th Grade |
| Second Book Selection | | Lord of the Flies |
3. The paper should be typed (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font) and proofread with correct grammar and spelling.
4. Include an introduction paragraph, body, and conclusion paragraph. A paragraph contains a minimum of 4 sentences. This paper should be at least 8 paragraphs in length.
5. Be sure to include specific examples from **both books**** and include a citation with the author's name followed by a page number (in parentheses) after the example. You should have a minimum of 3 citations from each book.

Example: Sometimes talented people get so used to things coming easily to them that they never really try things that will challenge them (Harris 103).
6. The paper is due by Friday, August 27th and will be turned in to your family group teacher at chapel.
7. The paper will be graded and applied to the 1st Quarter English grade of each student. See **rubric** following for detailed information on the expectations.
8. Questions? Contact Dr. Meyers at 989-790-1676 (school) or 989-790-2871 (home).

****You will also read another book of your choosing. It should be at least at a high school reading level. There will be a recommendation list posted on our website if you would like to choose one from there. Many of the books listed are recommended by colleges as important preparation for your post-high school work. Other books are personally recommended by Valley Lutheran High School faculty and staff members. If you are unsure about your selection, please contact Dr. Meyers.**

Use the following format for writing your paper:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| First Paragraph | Introduction |
| Second Paragraph | Of the five types of “hard things” discussed in the book, which type is your best? Give some specific examples (at least 3) from your life where you have done that type of “hard thing”. |
| Third Paragraph | Which type of “hard thing” do you find most challenging? Be specific about why you find this one difficult. Give at least three reasons or examples. |
| Fourth Paragraph | Choose one of the “hard things” and discuss exactly what you can do to improve in that area. Your plan should have at least 3-4 steps or strategies. |
| Fifth Paragraph | Briefly summarize (approx. 50 words) the second book that you chose. This must be your own thoughts and ideas. <u>Do not copy or paraphrase</u> the summary that is printed on the back, cover, or inside of the book or use another summary. |
| Sixth Paragraph | Select a character from the book and describe in detail how that character does “hard things”. Tie the character’s actions/behavior to the five types of “hard things” that come from the Harris’s book. |
| Seventh Paragraph | Compare and contrast the character from your second book to yourself in terms of being able to “do hard things”. |
| Eighth Paragraph | Conclusion |

Student Name _____ Grade ____ English Class _____

Do Hard Things

| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Turned paper in on time (8/27) | Paper turned in by 8/27. | Paper was 1 day late. | Paper was 2 days late. | Paper was 3 days late. | Paper was 4 or more days late. |
| Followed directions: typed, 3 pages, minimum of 8 paragraphs, labeled (name, grade, choice), with proper format. | Student followed all directions. | Student missed 1 direction. | Student missed 2 directions. | Student missed 3 directions. | Student missed all 4 directions. |
| Introduction/Conclusion | Quality introduction with thesis statement and conclusion that wraps up the main thoughts from paper | | Either the introduction or conclusion is good quality but the other is not | | Weak or off-topic introduction and conclusion, no real thesis statement |
| Personal reflection on "Do Hard Things" | Demonstrates a depth of self-understanding and the relationship to "doing hard things" | | Gives some thought to personal ability to "do hard things" | | Gives very little thought to personal ability to "do hard things" and/or a lack of specific examples |
| Summary of second book | Broad summary of book without being too long or detailed | | Good summary of book but too long or summary is not clear | | Too much information to be a summary or not enough to understand the basic story |
| Character analysis and relationship to writer | Analyzed the character well and related to themselves using a number of specific examples | | Average character analysis and relationship with few specific examples | | Student did not use any specific examples from the book. |
| Used proper mechanics. | Student used proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | | Student had a little trouble with grammar, spelling, or punctuation. | | Student had numerous mistakes in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. |

*****Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without proper credit through citations.**

Papers containing plagiarism will receive zero credit.

Total Points (out of a possible 35): _____

Teachers: Please identify any papers that are really exceptional and could be used as examples to read for other students. It would be helpful to get some examples by students from each grade level. Graded papers should be brought to the late-start Tuesday meeting on September 15th to be distributed to the appropriate English teachers.