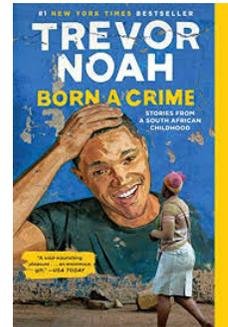


# IB Literature Year 2 Summer Assignment

May 14, 2021

Dear Seniors,

Yes, I mean you - class of 2022! I am so excited to teach you and learn with you next year!



In order to prepare for our first weeks together, I'm asking you to read Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*. (You are welcome to also watch some of his comedy specials or Daily Show episodes to gain a sense of his comedic timing and tenor.) We will talk about this book at length in class - we will analyze his connections to global issues and discuss ways to create individual oral topics for his text.

One other perk to reading this memoir over summer break is that it gives us an opportunity to delve into memoir and consider personal narrative, just as many of you are preparing a college essay. In addition to reading the text and taking notes, I encourage you to complete some personal writing after re-reading passages from *Born a Crime* along with other model texts. You may decide to use some of these ideas in your college essay or not - at least you will gain some practice with a mode of writing that will have an impact on your future (see reverse side for some ideas).

I look forward to talking with you about your reading and getting to know you better in August!

Ms. Goodwin

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## Overview of the summer tasks:

- Read *Born a Crime* and take one page of general notes about global issues, themes, forms of humor and stylistic devices.
- Re-read two vignettes from *Born a Crime* and take more detailed notes. Analyze the excerpts for tone, purpose, motif, literary technique and effect. Be ready to turn in your notes and share your ideas with the class. Consider Noah's approach and his methods; think about how he weaves ideas together and conveys his purpose without necessarily stating it directly.

\*\*The summer assignment will be assessed for completion. Make sure you can check all of the above bullet points prior to the start of school.

## The College Essay: Defining Creative Nonfiction and Getting Started with a College Essay

Creative nonfiction shares many elements of fiction such as characterization, plot, scene/setting, motif, theme, symbolism and more literary devices. Trevor Noah uses all of these tools in his memoir, plus he invokes analysis of injustices, invites exploration of components of identity and generates probing questions about community. We feel connected to him because he ushers us into his world and asks questions we find ourselves pondering in our worlds, too.

Personal essays are a type of creative nonfiction. The narrator of the story feels like a personal friend expressing an intimate story from life experience. The narrator establishes a familiar tone and expresses thoughts and feelings through details in the narrative. There is a point or a purpose the author builds as the essay develops.

1. Brainstorm college essay topics.
2. If it helps, check out the prompts the schools you are interested in are using, or visit <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts> for more help brainstorming. I really like reading essays the New York Times publishes every year. Here is one link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/09/your-money/college-application-essays-money.html> (you can search for more from other years on other topics). You can gain a sense of the variety of what works and how important good writing is in these essays. Authenticity, specificity and craft will make your essay stand out. Cliche topics or pat essays will recede.
3. Draft your college essay.
4. Solicit feedback. Ask friends and family if and how you are coming across the page. Consider their advice. Hit pause for a week, then maybe look at the essay again.
5. Revise your second draft to a more polished (hopefully nearing-final) draft.
6. Plan ahead to ask for some advice from an English teacher (I'm happy to help) or counselor. The sooner you ask in the fall, the more availability we will have.
7. While you are at it, you should probably start asking for a letter of recommendation if you will need it. When I taught juniors, I always told them the best letters I wrote were the ones I wrote over the summer!