“I know where I’m going and I know the truth, and I don’t have to be what you want me to be. I’m free to be what I want.” -Muhammad Ali

Now that you are a senior, it is time to revisit and reflect on your identity. *Who are you? Who are you to yourself? Who are you to the world around you?* The assignments you will complete over the summer will help you understand what identity means and its importance to you and the world around you.

The purpose of the summer assignment is to continue your education through the summer months. In the 12th grade the summer assignment will help you continue the college application process in brainstorming who you are and teach you how to budget a monthly income.

**Formatting Guidelines for Written Work**

- **Type all work:** use Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced
- Must include a proper heading
- Must include a creative, catchy and revealing title
- Your last name and page number must appear on the top right-hand corner of each page (other than on the first page). For example, on page 2 of your assignment it should say: Smith, 2
- Neatly assemble and staple your assignments
- Back up your work electronically, as well as in hard copy. Recommended methods for backing up work include making extra copies and keeping them in separate locations; storing files on flash drives; saving to Google Docs; emailing files to yourself
- Proofread your work and run all work through a spellcheck and grammar check before turning in the final copy. N.B. We encourage you to obtain a copy of *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White, and to use it to revise your work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Grading Rubric</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exemplary</strong> All assignments are correctly formatted and completed, with no spelling and grammatical errors. Written work demonstrates mastery in academic language and writing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 1: Summer Reading

Task 1a: Identity Chart

Create an identity chart for yourself. You are encouraged to create your identity chart on a poster. Creativity, such as using a combination of words and images that represent your identity, is also encouraged.

Example of Identity Chart

Task 1b: Choose and read a Summer Reading Book

You will be required to read 1 of the 5 choices of books, below. We do encourage you to read more than the one required book, however, as they will all serve as a basis for ideas and discussion throughout the school year.

- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *What is the What* by Dave Eggers
- *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Southland* by Nina Revoyr or *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice* by Anthony Ray Hinton

Task 1c: Written Response: after you have read, think about the following question….

*What forms our identity?*

….and, in a thesis essay, answer the above question:

Essay Requirements:
- Support your claims of what forms our identity from your book of choice, using evidence and analysis to create and extend your own definition of identity.
Part 2: The College Essay

Task 2: “Final” Draft of the College Essay

You all wrote a rough draft of your College Essay in CCA at the end of your Junior Year. These rough drafts were submitted to either Dr. Lankewish’s or the CCA Google Classroom.

Either Dr. Lankewish or Ms. Sale will provide feedback for your essay by the beginning of August at the latest. Use that feedback to improve your rough draft and turn them into “Final” Drafts. **What we will grade on your “Final” Draft is an honest attempt at improving your Rough Draft based on the feedback. We will not be grading based on what you wrote about**, we just want to see that you put effort into improving from the Rough Draft. This is very much part of the writing process that you have been working on during the three years you have been at PPAS.

In the 1st Semester of Humanities you will continue to have CCA classes once a week.

**The College Essay does NOT need a formal heading like the other assignments**

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Part 3 Budget for life:

In addition to thinking about your identity and who you are it is imperative that you begin to think about adult responsibilities such as budgeting. This final part of your summer assignment will allow you to experience what it would be like to be on your own when you are in college or working. The ultimate goal of this assignment is to understand the importance of budgeting and how that impacts your life.

We *recommend* you read Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America written by Barbara Ehrenreich. This book, is about trying to “get by” on a minimum wage job, which is the basis of the budget portfolio. It is available on Amazon & Kindle and in libraries & on tape (if you would prefer to listen).

*This book, interesting and informative as it is, is highly recommended but is not a requirement of the summer assignment*

Budget Simulation

In order to learn how to budget you will simulate (pretend) to have an adult life for one month. Below is your pay, broken down so that you can see the expenses automatically deducted from your paycheck:

**Paycheck for Minimum Wage 40 hour week @ 15.00 per hour**

Weekly Gross Pay $600.00
Federal Withholding 59.06
Social Security 37.20
Medicare $8.70
New York $22.79
NY SDI $.60
Net Pay $468.58

Therefore, you will take home approximate (net pay) per week. Most months are not exactly 4 weeks. But, for the purposes of this simulation we are going to say that each month is 4 weeks. As a result your net pay and starting balance per month is approximately **$1, 874.32** to spend per month

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1 You can change this to current times and update on minimum wage of $15/hr
Task 3a: Finding a Place to Live

**Rent:** Research the cost of rent in New York City (this includes Manhattan and all outer boroughs). If you want an apartment in Manhattan, you may be able to find a studio for about $1200. Remember that these rents are low because they often are for tiny places in inconvenient locations, are in poor condition, and do not have full amenities such as full kitchens or laundry rooms. Since your take home pay for the month is $1,140, you will not be able to afford a studio and YOU WILL HAVE to get a roommate in a one-bedroom (landlords will not rent to two in a studio). Someone will sleep in the living room. The CHEAPEST average cost, assuming you find one in the outer boroughs is $975.00.

When you have chosen your apartment, write down your rent in your Budget Chart on page 7.

**We have NOT included an initial rent deposit which is usually first and last month’s rent and a security deposit. We have also not included the deposit ConEd demands. We are also not including student loan payments, credit card debt payments, auto insurance, etc.**

Task 3b: Purchase Description Sheet

How often will you shop? *Daily? Weekly?* Adjust to your needs. Please simulate shopping by either shopping online or in an actual store. The closer this is to reality the more meaningful the experience.

**Step #1:** You will be eating at least two meals per day. Go to a supermarket or “shop online. “Buy”--that is LIST--your purchases for the week and record their individual cost on the Food Items Chart below. Then determine what the cost of that item of food is going to be per week.

Ex. If you buy 4 apples every week at $1 an apple then your cost of apples per week will be $4.

When you have finished the chart completely, record the totals for the week and then for the month in the specified space below. After that, take “the amount spent on groceries per month” and record the total on the BUDGET CHART on page 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Items Bought</th>
<th>Cost of individual food item</th>
<th>Cost of item per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham-cold cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Cheese - cold cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oat milk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strawberries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bananas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant oatmeal</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yogurt</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2 packs: $8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chicken</td>
<td>Family size: $11.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White rice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pinto beans

Ice cream

chips

Total amount spent on Groceries per **week**: ________________

Total amount spent on Groceries per **month**: ________________

**Step #2:** Determine the necessary household items you will need to purchase for the month. For example, will you need shampoo, cleaning products, toothpaste? You will also need to think about transportation, cable and internet, etc. Refer to the descriptions of household items below to determine what kind of items fall into each category. Enter all your items, the individual cost of each item and the total monthly costs of these items in the Household Items Chart below.

After you have completed the Household Items Chart, record the ‘Total Monthly Cost of Item(s)’ for transportation, laundry, phone, internet & cable, personal grooming and entertainment in the BUDGET CHART on page 7.

**Household Items Description**

**Transportation:** Find out the cost of a monthly metrocard pass.

**Laundry:** Find out the cost of soap and cost of using the washing machine and dryers at your local laundromat

**Phone:** Will you be using a cell phone? Find the best plan for your needs and do not forget about taxes

**Cable & Internet:** What kind of cable package will you have? Will you choose to not have cable? Will you have internet access (no free Wi-Fi)? Find the best cable & internet plan for you.

**Personal Grooming:** What kind of shampoo will you get? Are you going to nail salons weekly? How often will you get your haircut? Determine the costs of all these personal grooming expenses.

**Entertainment:** How much money are you going to spend on entertainment? Will you be buying a lot of video games? Will you be going out at all—eating out, going to movies, museums, going to see Drake concerts etc.? Determine the costs of anything related to entertainment that you plan to buy or attend for this month.

**Gas and electricity is typically a household expense. But for the purposes of this assignment we will assume gas and electricity is included in your rent. Usually it is not and you would have to pay between $45 and $120 per month for gas and electricity, depending on season.**

**If there is not enough space on this chart, you must recreate this chart on a separate sheet of paper.**

**Household Items Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and amount of each item(s)</th>
<th>Individual Cost of Item(s)</th>
<th>Total Monthly Cost of Item(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation train/bus</td>
<td></td>
<td>$127.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Make sure that your rent is recorded on your BUDGET CHART, you should have already done this in Step 1.

Step 4: Make sure that ALL of your household items are recorded in your BUDGET CHART, you should have already done this in Step 2.

Step 5: Remember that you have a starting balance of $1140 per month. You must now begin subtracting the costs of all your expenses (rent, food, household items etc.). If you end up not having enough money to cover all your expenses (this is called ‘going over budget’) DO NOT go back and redo your budget. When you get to Task 3c, you will reflect on what you could have done differently in order to stay within your budget.

### Monthly Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Expense</th>
<th>Total Cost Per Month</th>
<th>New Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you go ‘over budget’? (Circle one)  
Yes / No

Do you have any money left after your expenses? If so, how much money do you have left after all of your expenses?  
______________________________

**Task 3c: Written Reflection on Budgeting**

Reflect on the following:
How did completing this simulation help you learn about budgeting? What could you have done differently while determining your budget? Do you think budgeting is important?

Reflection Requirements:
- 1 page minimum and maximum (DO NOT write more than 1 page)
- Use the formatting guide on page 1 to format your reflection
- If you read “Nickel and Dimed” you can compare your experiences while doing this simulation to the experiences of the author