

## Summer Reading for Rising Seniors: Class of 2015

### English IV and Dual Enrollment

Read *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore (don't confuse it with *Discovering Wes Moore*).

Below you will find two assignments. You need to complete both and have them ready to turn in the first day of school. Each paper should be at least two pages that are typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font **or** 4 neatly handwritten pages. Also there will be more assignments and discussion using this memoir, so be sure to read it carefully. You may wish to take some notes or annotate your copy of the memoir.

**Assignment One:** Write a proposal suggesting that *The Other Wes Moore* be taught to high school students as a way to think about a social issue. First, choose a theme or a social issue, then define it and show the ways that the text illuminates that issue. For example, what does *The Other Wes Moore* tell us about schools and urban context? About the complexity of choosing to be part of drug dealing? About humans' ability to change and transform ourselves? About freedom?

**Assignment Two: Choose one option below for a personal reflection paper.**

**Option One:** Just as Wes Moore did, write about an experience in your life that shaped your identity, a moment or an event that helped make you into the person you are today. Use detail to describe the particular experience or moment. How did you feel before that moment? After? How did the experience shape you? Who were you before the experience? Who did you become after the experience? As you draft, try to focus on the specific qualities and characteristics that emerged as a result of this experience.

**Option Two:** Consider your current status as a Senior at Ridgeway High School. At this point in your life, you have an opportunity to transform yourself and start over in a new place. Describe the ways that being a Senior requires you to see yourself in a new light. What have you learned about yourself during these first three years of school? What qualities do you want to develop? What qualities do you want to leave behind as you continue your transition to college/work/military? Your narrative should focus on the present—think and write about what is happening to you right now, not in the past.

**Option Three:** Wes Moore the author explores the relationship between three factors he believes influence a child: environment, education and expectations. Each of these had an impact on both of these men in different ways and at different times. Consider your experiences: which of these three factors had the greatest influence on your success? Was it the environment (your neighborhood, your faith community, your school)? Your education (a particular teacher, challenging subject matter, overcoming an educational struggle)? Or the expectations of parents, teachers, siblings, extended family, or mentors? Do any of your experiences parallel those in the book?

**Option Four:** Wes Moore the author spent time in schools that provided a great deal of structure and discipline. In addition, his mother and grandparents also worked to provide Wes with a strong sense of these. Wes Moore the other had considerably less structure and discipline in his life, from either his family or his school. Do structure and discipline help create habits that lead to success? Or do they limit us? Describe your experiences growing up with or without structure and discipline, explaining the impact of these on the type of person you are today. How do you see discipline and structure impacting your future as a student and after college?