

Rhetoric Honors: Summer Reading/Writing Assignment 2017

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As an entrance into our meta-discussions regarding both significant personal and literacy moments to begin the year, we ask that you read the **four** pieces listed below, in the order in which they appear. In follow-up to this close reading, we ask that you **draft a tangible response** to the following macro-considerations. Several constructs are listed as a means to jog critical thinking. In your response you are asked to **directly incorporate a minimum of two of the readings**.

See spirit and parameters below:

What are your most important memories, and why specifically do they carry this special status?

Consider (this listing provided in hopes of jogging critical thinking): How far back do you remember? What details do you recall from your earliest memories? How do you feel about these memories? What makes us remember something? Do memories change and evolve over time? How important is place, or people, to what we remember? What impact does technology potentially have on memory? Will people potentially remember less in the future, because of forces such as Google, or the iPhone? How important is it that we do not remember everything? To what level and detail can you identify the most important moments in your own development? How much of your memory is made up of created narrative (film, television, social media, etc.)?

- Essay: Minimum 750 words
- Typed, Double-Spaced, Font of 12, Times New Roman; default margins
- Minimum use of **direct source material from two of the assigned readings**
- MLA format; MLA header
- Citation example: “AJ and EP are extremes on the spectrum of human memory” (Foer 1).
- Works Cited not necessary with this assignment
- Physical copy due **first day of class**

“Remember This: In the Archives of the Brain, Our Lives Linger or Disappear.” Joshua Foer. *National Geographic Magazine*:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2007/11/memory/foer-text>

“The Internet Has Become the External Hard Drive for Our Memories.” Daniel M. Wegner and Adrian F. Ward. *Scientific American*:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-internet-has-become-the-external-hard-drive-for-our-memories/?print=true>

“The Story of the Self.” Charles Fernyhough. *The Guardian*:

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2012/jan/13/our-memories-tell-our-story>

“Memory Laps.” David Sedaris. *The New Yorker*:

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/10/24/memory-laps>

***PDFs of each article are also available.