

College Transitions: Reading Book Project

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Fall 2017
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Due Dates:

- Finish Book - 9/28
- Rough Draft - 10/5
- Final Draft - 10/12

Length: 3-5 pages

This project is designed to help you become stronger in the areas of reading and writing since these are two critical skills you will need in college no matter what major you choose. I have chosen 3 of the most influential books that I read in college to share with you so you may practice reading and writing at the college level.

Your task is to read one of the 3 books from the list below. As you read, consider the main themes of the book. Why did the author write the book? What do you think they want you to gain from reading their book? What are the themes of the chapters? Once you have read the book you will write a paper that is your own thoughts on a specific theme from the book you read.

Books:

- *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World* by Eric Wiener
 - "Part travel memoir, part humor, and part twisted self-help guide, *The Geography of Bliss* takes the reader across the globe to investigate not what happiness is, but WHERE it is." - Amazon.com
- *War is a Force That Give is Meaning* by Chris Hedges
 - "As a veteran war correspondent, Chris Hedges has survived ambushes in Central America, imprisonment in Sudan, and a beating by Saudi military police. He has seen children murdered for sport in Gaza and petty thugs elevated into war heroes in the Balkans. Hedges, who is also a former divinity student, has seen war at its worst and knows too well that to those who pass through it, war can be exhilarating and even addictive: 'It gives us purpose, meaning, a reason for living.'" - Amazon.com
- *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void* by Mary Roach

- “Space is a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy, beer. How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can't walk for a year? What happens if you vomit in your helmet during a space walk? Is it possible for the human body to survive a bailout at 4,000 miles per hour? To answer these questions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and startlingly bizarre space simulations -- making it possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronaut), *Packing for Mars* takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.” - Maryroach.net

Examples:

-One of the main themes in *Geography of Bliss* is the lessons that can be learned from travel. After reading this book you could write an essay on lessons you have learned from travel or on why you believe travel is important.

-*War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* has many themes such as addiction, chaos, devotion, love, and meaning. You could write a paper that disagrees with one of these themes' connection to war and supports your stance with specific examples from the book and your thoughts on them. **Must be done in a professional manner.**

-In *Packing for Mars* author Mary Roach talks about many of the considerations humans would have to make before making a mission to Mars. You could write a paper that discusses your thoughts on one of these facts that you are fascinated by or on your thoughts of prolonged space travel.