

ENG 3U INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT

The ENG 3UP I.S.P. is an opportunity for students to think and act as independent learners. This is a memoir-based study which will require that you select a memoir from the list provided. The main objective of this assignment is to write an essay that analyzes the themes of the work, given the social/political/economic/religious context(s) of the time.

STRUCTURE AND CRITERIA:

1. **Reading Schedule:** Once you have chosen a memoir from the list, divide the memoir into three equal sections; groups must come to an agreement on the division of the reading. A reading schedule will be determined by your teacher. On each of the specified dates, you are expected to have read the section and written notes to reflect your understanding of the text.

2. **Identify the social, political, economic, religious or cultural issue** associated with your memoir. Once you have done this you will be required to conduct research on the issue. Find an article (journal, newspaper, magazine) that relates to the issue you have identified. Provide copies for each of your group members. E-mail articles to your group members before the day of the reading is due so you can have a meaningful discussion about each of the articles.

3. Group Discussion/Reader Response

After a short, in-class discussion with the readers in your group, you will be asked to complete a reading response journal related to the memoir, the secondary sources and the insight you gained from your group discussion. Each group member must complete the reading for the assigned date, contribute a secondary source and have read other group members' secondary sources as well. Be prepared to discuss the relevance of the secondary sources in relation to your memoir.

4. **Conference:** Each student must come to his or her teacher conference with a detailed essay outline. This means that the thesis, all the main arguments and all supporting arguments are fully prepared, in point form. You must include a list of secondary sources (include all the secondary sources you used during your group discussions).

This conference must be completed in order for you to submit the final essay.

5. Written Essay

- 1200-1500 words or 4-5 typed, double-spaced pages
- this essay will be written at a level of complexity and sophistication suitable for Grade 11
- your essay must include a works cited and parenthetical references – M.L.A. FORMAT

- your essay must include all the components of a well-written essay: clear thesis, convincing arguments, documentation and appropriate style and tone
- academic honesty must be adhered to
- failure to properly acknowledge sources will result in a mark of zero

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Mark Breakdown

Reading Response Journals	/10	Thinking and Understanding
1/2	whole	/20
		Communication of ideas

Conference:	/10	Knowledge and Understanding
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Essay:	/15	Knowledge and Understanding
	/25	Thinking and Inquiry
	/15	Communication
	/15	Application

Due Dates

Reading Response Journals _____

Conference / Proposal _____

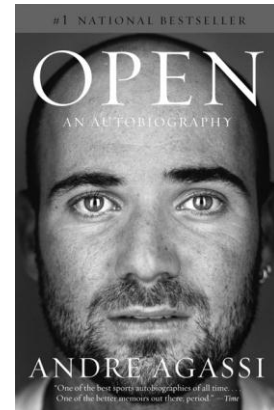
Essay _____

ENG 3U Possible Texts

Andre Agassi

Open

Although one of the best tennis players of all time, Agassi's autobiography reveals how, off the court, he was often unhappy and confused, unfulfilled by his great achievements in a sport he had come to resent. In haunting, point-by-point details, Agassi describes the highs and lows of his celebrated career.



Valentino Achak Deng

What is the What

The memoir of Valentino Achak Deng who, during the Sudan Civil War, walked—along with the other famous “Lost Boys” across three countries to find safety. This memoir is the remarkable story of his survival and arrival in America.



Michael Greenberg

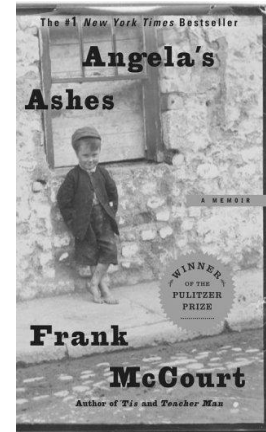
Hurry Down Sunshine

Greenberg describes his relationship with his daughter who, one sunny day, is suddenly “struck mad.” Greenberg's search to help his daughter as she struggle with her psychosis—later diagnosed as “bipolar” disorder is a story that will make readers examine their own perceptions of people with mental disorders.



Frank McCourt
Angela's Ashes

Angela's Ashes is a 1996 memoir by the Irish-American author Frank McCourt. The memoir consists of various anecdotes and stories of Frank McCourt's impoverished childhood and early adulthood in Brooklyn, New York and Limerick, Ireland, as well as McCourt's struggles with poverty, his father's drinking issues, and his mother's attempts to keep the family alive. *Angela's Ashes* was published in 1996 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography. A sequel to the book, *'Tis*, was published in 1999, and was followed by *Teacher Man* in 2005.



Marina Nemat
Prisoner of Tehran

In 1982, sixteen-year-old Marian Nemat was arrested on false charges by the government and tortured in Tehran's (Iran) notorious Evin prison. She was condemned to die, but survived because on the guards, whose family was well connected to the Khomeini regime, pleaded for her life. But the price Ali exacted was high: Nemat would have to marry him. Ironically, it was Ali's family who eventually secured her release after he was assassinated. She rejoined her own family but was further traumatized by their reluctance to acknowledge her ordeal.



John Elder Robison
Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's

Even since he was young, John Robison longed to connect with other people, but by the time he was a teenager, his odd habits—an inclination to blurt out non sequiturs, avoid eye contact, dismantle radios, and dig five-foot holes to bury his younger brother—had him labelled as a social “deviant.” It was not until he was forty that he was diagnosed with a form of autism called Asperger's syndrome. That understanding transformed the way he saw himself—and the world.

