



Albert Einstein High School  
English Department  
Summer Reading Assignment  
English Honors 12A

This summer, you will have a reading assignment designed to help you maintain the critical thinking and analysis skills you have developed during the past year. You will be reading two essays and taking 15 Cornell Notes for each essay while you read. :

- "What is an American?" by J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/crevecour2.html>
- "Hair" by Malcolm X  
[http://www.nexuslearning.net/books/Elements\\_of\\_Lit\\_Course4/Collection%205/Hair.html](http://www.nexuslearning.net/books/Elements_of_Lit_Course4/Collection%205/Hair.html)

Many of you used Cornell Notes to complete your Honors 11A summer reading assignment last year. You may also have used Cornell Notes during the year in your English 11 or Honors English 11 classes. It is important for you to understand that the purpose of Cornell Notes is to **analyze and extend** the meaning of texts, not to simply **explain or summarize** them.

See the examples below:

**Correct**

"And so I went back to the store, not to prove to him that I could, but to prove it to myself." (46)	The protagonist has been fearful of the store owner in the past because the store owner has shown that he is a racist and is prejudiced against the protagonist. However, since their last encounter, the protagonist has developed a lot of self-confidence since then so he no longer fears going into the store. He wants to prove to himself that he can do it.
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**Incorrect**

"And so I went back to the store, not to prove to him that I could, but to prove it to myself." (46)	He's going to the store to get some groceries for his mother.
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**This assignment will be due the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school. No exceptions. Additionally, you will be asked to complete an in-school timed writing assignment on the aforementioned texts.**