

DE Comp 101/102 Summer Reading and Welcome Letter

Hi all! I'm excited to have you joining me this coming fall. I'm assuming you all know what you've signed up for, but a few general expectations:

- This is a college class and will be treated as such.
- This is a 3-credit course. The rule of thumb is as follows: for everyone college credit hour in which you enroll, you will spend approximately two to three hours outside of class studying. Therefore, use the formula: 3 credit hours (1 course) = 3 hours in class per week = 6-9 hours study time OUTSIDE OF CLASS per week. Since you see me more than 3 hours/week, that estimate may be high, but please keep in mind that you are absolutely expected to work outside of the classroom.
- Your major assignments are required to be written in MLA format using scholarly sources from the school [library database \(GALE\)](#). MLA format has many components, and in order to be MLA format, all must be followed. I'll provide reviews as needed, but you should come in with a strong basis. This [refresher video](#) may help.
- This is a **composition class** which means that the focus is on technical writing. Your major assignments will be based on your ability to analyze scholarly research by following a directed research format (MLA in our case) and using several different writing approaches.

These are your **Summer Reading Assignment** instructions. You only have one book to read this summer, but I want you to do several tasks with it, so please read the instructions carefully before you begin the book. You have a choice between two memoirs:

- [Lab Girl](#) by Hope Jahren.
- [Explosions of Joy: A Memoir of the Grief Counselor for the Missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370](#) by Paul Yin with Trina A. Kraus

I purposely created this assignment to:

- get an initial assessment of your reading and writing skills
- give you some practice with the type of reading, writing, and analysis we will be doing in class this year, especially the first quarter
- get to know something about you as a person

So, please take the assignment seriously and give yourself enough time to work on it. These will be your first grades for the quarter. You will be handing in three assignments related to the book in Google Classroom by three different deadlines in late August. Of course, you can turn them in earlier. **Please join the DE Comp Summer Reading Class right away so that I know you've received and read these instructions. The class code is vpe324p**

I recommend starting at least a month before school begins, so you have enough time to read the book and complete the assignments. Your tasks are as follows:

1. **Keep a Reading Log**
2. **Write an MLA Essay around 500 words**

3. Write a short Personal Reflection

I look forward to working with you this coming school year. Please feel free to email me or come see me in Room 807 if you have any questions. Have a great summer! ~Trina A. Kraus