**ONLINE LEARNING WEEK 1**

Please sign up for our remind—text @beeneo to 81010

Hello Everyone. I hope you are staying safe and finding ways to cope with this very strange idea of social distancing. As juniors, you need to continue to work on your reading and writing skills while you are on this long delay from school. This week I have included two writing responses that will get your brain working and use some of the skills we have hit on during the first nine weeks of class. These responses need to be written using the grammar skills and writing techniques we discussed in class.

These responses are designed to get you back in the routine of completing academic work. The practice of reading and thinking about what we read is the skill I most want you guys to take with you as you move forward with Senior English and your upcoming college classes.

Please email your responses to neal.beene@dcsms.org. Please put your name in the subject line so I will know who you are.

I miss you guys! I hope to see you all soon. Take care of each other and try to keep working those brain muscles.

Sincerely,

Coach Beene

**Response #1 COVID-19 (adapted from lesson posted by Kelly Gallagher)**

You are living through a unique time in history. Future generations will read about and study the events that will occur in the coming weeks. It is important that we record how these times affect us. One day you will tell stories to your children and grandchildren about what it was like to live through this time. So, your first assignment is to write about how this virus is affecting you, your family, your school, and your community. I want you to read through some of the links I am providing and create a one-page response (500-750 words).

Some possibilities for your written response:

* Describe how this virus has disrupted your school year—including sporting events, concerts, community events, etc.
* Discuss how it has disrupted your daily life.
* Share how the virus has affected your friends and family.
* Respond to any aspect of this crisis that you find interesting. That can be any type of media that catches your attention and makes you think—including a news article, a broadcast, a TEDtalk, a tweet, an Instagram post, a podcast, a film or a photograph. Anything that inspires thought about the crisis.

Here are some links to get you started (you can use other sources if you like):

* [Two women fell sick, one survived](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/13/world/asia/coronavirus-death-life.html)
* [25 songs that matter now](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/11/magazine/best-songs.html)
* [Conronavirus explained in TedTalk:](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqw-9yMV0sl)
* [Political Cartoons](http://www.cagle.com/bob-englehart/2020/03/corona-news)
* [A soccer team is trapped by the virus](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/sports/soccer/wuhan-coronavirus-spain-soccer.html)
* [Who will pay the salaries of stadium workers? One player steps up.](http://people.com/sports/pelicans-star-zion-williamson-pay-salaries-staffers-smoothie-king-center/)
* [Researchers are using a World of Warcraft scenario to understand the spread of COVID-19](http://pcgamer.com/the-researchers-who-once-studied-wows-corrupted-blood-plague-are-now-fighting-the-coronavirus/)

These are just a few links that I found interesting. You are by no means limited to just these sources. I am interested in your feelings and how this crisis is affecting you. If there are other links or resources that have made you think please use those.

**Response #2: Adaptations of Walter Mitty**

If you are sick of talking and reading about the virus, I completely understand. For this response I have picked one of my favorite short stories and movies. “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” is one of my favorite short stories. It is a story about the power of our imaginations. The short story and the movie are quite different, but both present strong examples of how our imaginations affect us. Read the short story, watch the movie and compose a one-page response about the power of imagination. Remember to include how you are affected by your own imagination in your response. I cannot provide a link for the movie but it can be found on Hulu, Amazon Prime, Apple movies, etc.

* Link for the short story: [“The Secret Life of Walter Mitty”](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1939/03/18/the-secret-life-of-walter-james-thurber)

If you cannot find a copy of the movie to watch, I want you to base your response on the story and how the story made you think about your own imagination. Does your imagination get in the way of achieving your goals or is it a tool to help accomplish the things you desire.