

St. Thomas More High School 2017 Summer Freshmen Assignment

While the summer is a time to recuperate and enjoy time away from the stresses of school, the English Department would like to ensure that incoming freshmen are on a relatively level playing field in terms of various grammar concepts and applications. Therefore, the English Department is requiring students to complete a diagnostic test and a series of practice exercises and quizzes about basic grammar concepts on www.noredink.com. The Department will use this information as baselines and track student growth throughout the year. The scores on these assignments will not affect their first quarter score; however, at the beginning of the year, the freshmen English teachers will administer a summary test incorporating these skills and concepts which may be taken for a score.

Students will be able to sign up for a free noredink.com account whenever necessary but the diagnostic test, practice assignments, and quizzes will not become available until July 1, 2017. They must complete all of the required assignments no later than August 23, 2017 at 11:59 P.M. The English Department estimates that the diagnostic test will take sixty minutes to complete and the five lessons and five quizzes will range from twenty to thirty-five minutes each. Please plan accordingly. The Department does not intend or hope that students complete these assignments in a condensed timeframe; rather, it encourages students to complete assignments gradually throughout the summer and at their own paces to maximize retention.

If you do not have a laptop, smartphone, or tablet, or do not have internet access, the English Department recommends going to a local library for free computer usage with a library card or any other place with public and free Wi-Fi such as Starbucks or Collectivo.

Below are instructions for how to sign up for Noredink and complete the required grammar assignments:

1. Go to www.noredink.com.
2. Create a student account using class code “crowded shelf 77” (there are spaces between these three words). For the log-in information, please use an email that you can access regularly and a password you will remember—even during the school year. Also, please use your actual name when signing up for your account. No nicknames.
3. Once you log-in, noredink.com will ask you about your interests. Choose as many or as few as you desire. The website caters the sentences in the exercises to these interests.
4. Take the “Parts of Speech Baseline Test” first. This test may take an hour to complete. This test will provide a baseline for your skills and the lessons that follow will review, practice, and develop these skills.
5. Once you complete the diagnostic test, complete the practice exercises and quizzes that accompany them. Make sure you complete every assignment by August 23, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact either Mr. Wolfersdorff or Mr. Dineen.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wolfersdorff
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English Department Chair

Mr. Dineen
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Dean of Academics