

OPTIONAL – EXTRA CREDIT ONLY

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT PSYCHOLOGY

1. Read *The LAST LECTURE* by Randy Pausch.
2. As you read the book, write an analysis/reaction journal. You should write one “entry” for about every three or four chapters. This “journal” should consist of your reactions to what you are reading and/or your *analysis* of the points the author seems to be making and how he is making them. It should **NOT** be a book report or summary of the plot of the book. Of course, it will be necessary for you to refer to characters or events in the book. Just don’t forget that what I want to read is your *analysis* of them and **reactions** to them and Pausch’s apparent points. **I do not want to read a summary of the book!**

What follows is a list of questions that you should address in some way in your journal. While you shouldn’t feel compelled to address all of the questions individually in every entry, you should address each of them at some point.

- What emotions does reading the book bring forth? How/What did the author do and or say to make you feel those emotions?
- How well-written is the book? That is, is the plot engaging? Does it seem realistic? Are the characters familiar to you in any way? How do you feel about them?
- What point(s) is Pausch trying to make to the reader? Does he have a specific agenda? If so, what is it? How effectively does he make his points? Explain.
- What, if any, value does the book have as a Psychology book? Reading for graduating seniors? Explain your reasoning.

This assignment should be typed (double-spaced). If you use quotations, cite page numbers. **I do not want you to use any outside sources in completing this assignment. The reactions/analysis presented in your journal should be your own.** Remember, I expect quality analysis so I will not look favorably upon a journal filled with simplistic “reaction” and superficial analysis. Quality of *analysis* is what I am looking for, **not** length or how well you can chronicle the events in the book!

As always, e-mail me (wendy.yakstis@holynome.net) if you have any questions. Enjoy the summer!