



The Vision

As we anticipate the future of Camille Casteel High School (CCHS), the English Department envisions a community of readers, staff, students and community alike. In order to promote this school culture, we propose a change in our summer reading requirements.

The Action

The CCHS ELA Department purposes an optional summer reading school 'challenge' instead of the conventional English class requirement. This mindset encourages a positive shift combining interest, enthusiasm, achievement, and collaboration under a common theme. In his article, "Build a Better World: Collaborative Summer Reading Program, 2017," Rosales suggests that designating a yearly theme helps keep an academic focus but also allows for a variety of reading options, such as fiction, nonfiction, contemporary and classic, diverse choices for all students. This new way of approaching summer reading does not dismiss educational integrity; rather this innovation enhances a community of readers that associate reading in everyday life as opposed to a school assignment (Okyle 2015).

The Outcome

CCHS foresees, based on Miller's research in *The Book Whisperer*, a reading culture that builds each year, engaging more and more participants as students have the freedom to choose as well as read for enjoyment, without the stress of summer assignments (2009). The ELA Department looks forward to using Long's 2011 approach of using books that engage student interest in order to support the teaching of academically required reads.

Works Cited

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- Rosales, Romeo. "Build a Better World: Collaborative Summer Reading Program 2017." Public Libraries Online. Web. 23 June 2017.