

Cass Technical High School Summer Reading Assignment
Rising Juniors, Class of 2025

Read all of the instructions below. Open all links, and pay attention to the due date listed at the bottom of the page. Ensure you are doing your best work, as always!

Step One: Review the history behind “This I Believe” essays [here](#)

Step Two: Search and read through the This I Believe website at (<https://thisibelieve.org/>). We suggest searching by theme (link [here](#)). Find two essays that speak to you and your experiences, or merely select two essays that sound interesting to you!

Step Three: Read each of your essays and focus on how the author’s voice and rhetorical choices enhance their core belief argument. Consider the following moves the author makes as you read:

- What patterns do they create with their diction (word choice)?
 - How do these choices create meaning for you as the reader?
- What patterns do they create with their syntax (sentence structure and punctuation)
 - How do these choices create meaning for you as the reader?
- What sensory details do they utilize?
 - How do these choices create meaning for you as the reader?
- How do the transitions function within the essay? Is this a successful format?

Step Four: Write a 4-7 sentence response to each essay. Your response should include the title of the essay you read, the author’s full name, the reason you selected it, and answers to some of the questions above.

Step Five: Write your own “This I Believe Essay”. Craft your response in 500-600 words, type it in Times New Roman 12 point font, double space, and give it a title. In the Fall, your English teacher will read these responses to get to know you as a student and a writer. You will also be workshopping these ideas in class to help lead you to writing clear and concise college application essays.

Your individual “This I Believe Essay” plus your two personalized responses are due the first day of school to your English teacher. Come with your work typed, printed, and prepared in order to make your best first impression.

We look forward to meeting you and learning what makes you unique!