Honors English 4 – 2025 Summer Assignment
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Welcome to Honors English IV. Because this is an advanced class, we ask students to read a few select short texts over the summer to help prepare for the fall semester.

Students should:
- Print out the texts (or come see Mr. Scheip in E207 for copies)
- Keep a dictionary handy for unfamiliar terms
- Annotate as you read
- In a notebook or separate document, take notes while you read or write a summary

Anticipate assessments on the reading in the first week of school, so you should read each of the pieces before you show up on day one. Each piece is short enough to read in one sitting. While the pieces are short, I would not recommend reading them all the night before the semester begins.

Part One:

Read Plato's "**Allegory of the Cave**" and Mark Edmundson's article "**On the Uses of a Liberal Education**." Consider what these pieces have to say about knowledge and learning – how we acquire them, why we acquire them, and what we should do with them. What prevents people from becoming intelligent or genius? Despite these articles being 'old' (2,400 and 27 years old, respectively), in what ways do their messages ring even more true today? Are there outdated elements (consider how the "tube" and "box" have evolved)?

Part Two:

Read Nicholas Carr's article "**Is Google Making Us Stupid?**" and Ray Bradbury's short story "**The Veldt**." Consider what these pieces have to say about technology and its effects on our intellect, attention, and humanity. How should we use or understand technology? Is there a moral component to our pursuits of knowledge and pleasure? Carr wrote his article in 2008 – how do the ubiquity of the smart phone and the rise of generative AI provide a different perspective on his piece? You may want to familiarize yourself with the basic plot of *2001: Space Odyssey* to understand Carr's references to HAL.