

The Otterbein Common Book 2023

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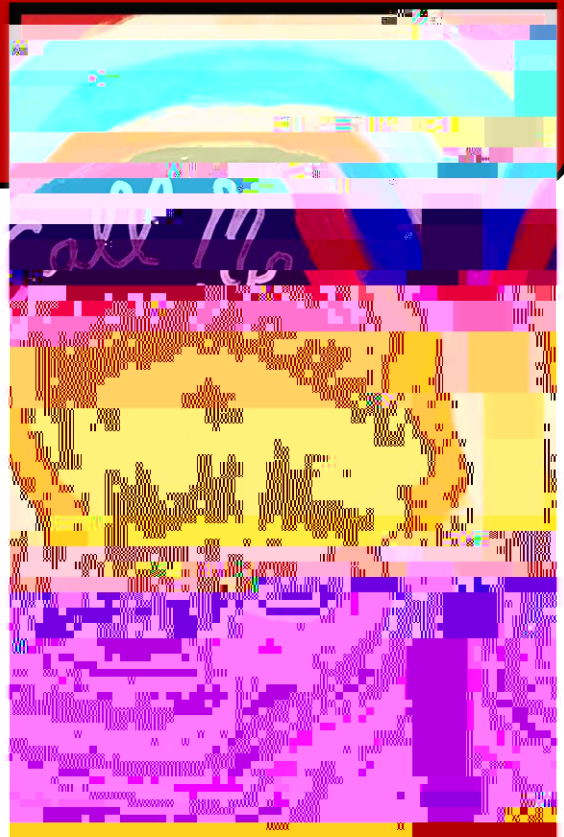
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Qwgdgkpa'Ego o qp'DqqnRtqi tco ."qpg"qh' vj g'Wpkxgtukv(au'uki pcwtg'r tqi tco u."qhgtu'c'uj ctgf " reading experience for all incoming first-year students, and for faculty, staff, and other members of the Otterbein community.

The 2023 Common Book, *Call Me American*, is a testament to courage, survival, and determination. In this memoir, Abdi Nor Iftin describes his love affair with American popular culture, his life in war-torn Somalia, his plight as a refugee in the Horn of Africa, and his miraculous, desperate immigration to the United States.

Call Me American is a meditation on intercultural exchange, the power of words to shape lives, and the human capacity for endurance. Yet, it focuses not just on the everyday suffering in a country whose history has been marred by colonialism and war, but reminds us of those moments of joy amidst pain. *Call Me American* testifies to the power of supporting one another and making sacrifices for the betterment of our fellow humans. It embodies a dream of freedom and a better life—a dream of America.

Common Book Assignment

Document Design

Essays submitted to your professors should be written according to a standard format: font, spacing, margins, headings, page numbering, and documentation style are all prescribed. The following page is an example that illustrates these features according to one style of documentation, the MLA 9th edition.

Frequently Asked Questions

Aggressive Reading

Reading at the college level can be demanding. This is true of *Call Me American*, which discusses concepts, uses terminology, and addresses issues you might not have encountered before. As a college student, you can expect **more** reading, reading that **challenges** your thinking, reading that **broadens** your view of the world, reading that **transforms** you. If you are going to read effectively at the college level, you cannot read passively; you must be a **proactive**, engaged reader. This means interacting with your text in ways you might not have before. To help you become that successful, **aggressive** reader, we recommend this strategy:

Locate: Choose a time when and a place where you are alert and focused.

Survey: Look at chapter titles, section headings, intros, topic sentences, words in bold type, graphics, and footnotes or endnotes.

Question: Prepare to interrogate your text with your assignment, your prompt, or your research question in mind.

Read: Armed with a view of the layout of the text chunks of 10 pages. Try to read 100 pages at a sitting. Your readings will be more efficient if you chunk the assignment into these more manageable parts.

Write: As you read, write and annotate the text, taking notes in the margin. This is your book to

keep, so make the most of it! Use a pen or pencil, not a highlighter; ask questions, circle unfamiliar words, connect with prior knowledge or other parts of the text, list names, underline key passages, and make marks to remind you of the importance of a part of the text.

Annotations work in the present, to help you engage with the text, and in the future, when you review the reading for a test or collect information for a paper.

Outline or Summarize: Outlining as you read helps you situate what you are reading into a larger context of information. Summarizing after you read a chapter, using your own words, is a good measure of your understanding of the text.

Journal: To help you read the Common Book actively and productively, keep a reading journal in which you note observations, reflections, and questions as you read. Pause to write every so often using your reading journal as your ten-page break is a good start. Keep your outlines and summaries, as well as images, patterns, connections, significant people, and new ideas here. The journal will help you interact with the information in the text as well as serve as a record of your reading. This can be helpful for class discussions, assignments, and program events during the year. Write your ideas into one place for your reference when you write your First Flight essay.

The Common Book Program is made possible by a generous gift from Mary B. Thomas, class of 1928.