



FYE Summer Reading Assignment

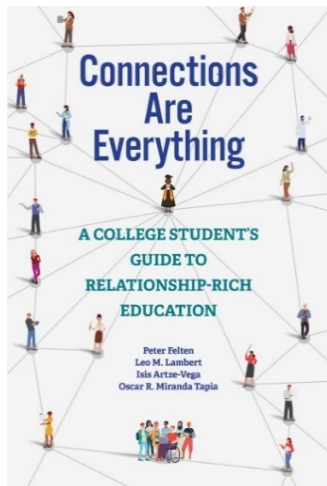
Your Pioneer Journey has begun!

As you learned during orientation, the “Pioneer Journey” is what makes Sacred Heart University special. The Pioneer Journey names five pillars that support every aspect of the SHU student experience: **Knowledge, Faith, Integrity, Service, and Community**. It also includes two key practices that you will engage in over and over throughout your time at SHU: **intentional reflection** and **courageous civil discourse**.

The Pioneer Journey will help you make connections across your whole SHU experience. And as you’ll explore in your summer reading reflection assignment, *connections are everything!*

Preparing for Your Summer Reading

Your summer reading assignment will be one of your first opportunities as a Pioneer to pause and to **engage in intentional reflection**. What are you most excited about as you begin your college journey? What worries you most? What values and gifts will you bring to our community? And how can connections – to peers, to faculty, to staff – enrich your college experience and help you overcome challenges?



This summer, you will read Part I of ***Connections are Everything: A College Student's Guide to Relationship-Rich Education*** by Peter Felten, Leo M. Lambert, Isis Artze-Vega, and Oscar R. Miranda Tapia. These authors are highly regarded for their research on how important meaningful relationships and connections with others are for student success in college. Though you are only required to read Part I during the summer, we encourage you to read or skim the rest of the book! We will explore the remaining chapters throughout your First Year Experience course this fall. We also encourage you to share this book with your parents, family members, or other important people who are supporting you on your college journey.

How to Get a Copy of Your Summer Reading Book

You are welcome to purchase a paperback copy of *Connections are Everything* from the SHU Bookstore. Free digital copies of *Connections are Everything* are also available from Project

MUSE at this link: <http://www.tinyurl.com/SHUConnections>. You can also find the free online version by Googling "Project MUSE Connections are Everything."

Your Summer Reading Assignment

Your summer reading reflection assignment will be due during the first week of classes in August. Your FYE instructor will give you instructions about how to upload your assignment to our learning management system, Blackboard, during your first FYE class. Please be sure to carefully follow the below directions as you work on your assignment.

After reading Part I (pgs. 1-43) of *Connections of Everything*, write an approximately 1,000-word original essay that includes responses in your own words to each of the five following reflection prompts:

- 1) What are you most excited about as you begin your college journey?
- 2) What worries you most about your transition to college?
- 3) What values (e.g. family, friends, integrity, community, faith, curiosity, humility) do you bring to the SHU community? Describe why your selected values are important to you.
- 4) In what ways can connections (e.g. with faculty, staff, student groups, peers) enrich your college experience and help you navigate challenges?
- 5) Name 2-3 specific individuals, groups, or university resources with whom you hope to connect during your first few weeks at SHU. If you are unsure if SHU has a particular group or resource, write about it and your FYE instructor can help point you in the right direction.

Your essay must meet the following requirements:

- Uses a narrative writing style with a first-person point of view, drawing from your own experiences and perspectives, that addresses all five of the above prompts
- Has a logical flow and organization
- 12-point legible font (e.g. Arial, Calibri), double-spaced, 1" margins
- Approximately 1,000 words in length (acceptable range: 950-1050 words)
- Includes correct spelling and grammar
- Includes at least 5 in-text citations of Part I of *Connections are Everything*, using American Psychological Association (APA) formatting, including relevant page numbers and a reference list at end of essay (see "How to Cite the Book" section)
- Submitted as a .docx file format (can be generated via Microsoft Word or Google docs)

Your First College Assignment & The Importance of Academic Integrity

As a Sacred Heart University student, you will be held to high expectations of honesty and integrity throughout your academic work. All Sacred Heart University programs and courses adhere fully to the University Policy on Academic Integrity, as stated in the [Undergraduate and](#)

[Graduate Catalogs](#) and on the Registrar's Office's [Academic Integrity web page](#). Be sure to review them as you begin your college journey, and ask your instructor if you have questions.

Important note: the use of artificial intelligence/chatbots is NOT permitted for this summer assignment. This is because we want to learn more about you, your voice, your experiences, and how we can help you make the most of your experience at SHU. You are likely to have other meaningful opportunities to use AI during your time at Sacred Heart.

Know that academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, submitting another's work as your own, not properly using citations to give credit to source materials, using artificial intelligence when not allowed, or other unethical behavior) could result in a grade of F for the assignment or for this course. If you are unsure what is allowed for a particular assignment in any class at SHU, always ask your instructor.

How to Cite the Book & Other Sources

Your summer reading assignment is an excellent opportunity to develop writing citation skills that will be required throughout your college career. For this assignment, you are asked to use American Psychological Association (APA) 7 formatting, a citation style used widely in academia.

In-Text Citations: In-text citations are citations included within the body of your essay. They identify the source of information by the author(s) last name(s) and publication year and always correspond to a reference listed at the end of your essay. *Connections are Everything* is written by 4 authors, so the authors are abbreviated to "Felten et al." by APA standards. For example:

- To cite an idea or quotation from a single page of *Connections are Everything*, include the authors, publication year, and page number at the end of the sentence (Felten et al., 2023, p. #).
- To cite an idea or quotation from a page range of *Connections are Everything*, include the authors, publication year, and page range at the end of the sentence (Felten et al., 2023, pp. #-#).

Reference List: At the end of your essay, include a "References" section, which includes the full citation information for *Connections are Everything*. If you use any other sources besides the book, you must also cite them and include them in your reference list. The APA 7 formatting for a reference entry for a four-author book is:

Author, A.A., Author, A.A., Author, A.A., & Author, A.A. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Publisher Name.

For full APA 7 guidelines, visit <http://owl.purdue.edu> and click "APA Guide." Another helpful APA 7 guideline source is: <https://www.scribbr.com/apa-style/in-text-citation/>.

How You Will Be Graded

Your summer reading reflection assignment counts as 20% of your FYE course grade and will be graded by your FYE instructor according to the following criteria:

- **Content** – Have you thoughtfully addressed each of the 5 reflection prompts in your own words, drawing from your own experiences and perspectives? **(50%)**
- **Organization** – Does your essay have a logical flow and organization, such as an introduction, exploratory paragraphs, and a conclusion? **(20%)**
- **Spelling & Grammar** – Does your essay use well-constructed sentences and correct spelling and grammar? **(15%)**
- **Citations** – Does your essay include at least 5 citations of the summer reading book using correct APA 7 formatting, as well as a correctly formatted reference list? **(10%)**
- **Formatting** – Does your essay meet all the outlined formatting requirements, including length, font, spacing, margins, and .docx file type? **(5%)**

Support for Your Writing This Summer



CENTER FOR
TEACHING & LEARNING
Sacred Heart University

PASS
PORTAL

As an incoming SHU student, you are eligible for free tutoring and writing support from the SHU Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). All students can benefit from tutoring and/or writing support during their college careers! For help with the writing process and/or APA 7 citations for your FYE summer reading assignment, there are two services available:

- 1) Schedule a virtual one-on-one appointment with a CTL Writing Tutor
- 2) Submit your paper for feedback from a CTL Writing Tutor via our Online Writing Lab (OWL) by August 16, 2024 (Typical turnaround is 2-3 days, based on demand)

You can schedule virtual appointments and submit your paper to OWL via the **PASS (Pioneer Academic Support Services) Portal**: <http://www.sacredheart.edu/PASSPortal>. Questions about tutoring and writing support? Contact the CTL at ctl tutoring@sacredheart.edu.

See You Soon!

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus in August! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask your FYE instructor, who will be reaching out to you over the summer. We're excited for you to continue your Pioneer Journey at SHU, a journey where **connections are everything!**