



**Bay State College**  
**Fall 2011 First Year Experience Common Reading**

---

**SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

**\* DUE SEPTEMBER 2, 2011**

This assignment, due on the second day of FYE classes – September 2, 2011 – will be collected and graded. The assignment consists of the following parts:

First, read the book *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch.

Second, select *one* (1) of the following questions to answer in an essay of 2 to 3 typewritten pages.

1) What details from Randy Pausch’s childhood do you think led to the successes he had later in life? Are there lessons in Pausch’s story for people who’ve had less fulfilling childhoods or absentee parents? What advice might he give to those who didn’t win the “parent lottery”? Explain your answer, being sure to include examples from the book to support your points.

2) Name three significant people in Randy Pausch’s life and discuss how they influenced and shaped him. Who are the mentors you turn to in your own life? What have you learned from them? Explain your answer, being sure to include examples from the book to support your points.

**Summer Assignment Guidelines**

1. You must type this essay, double-spacing and using a size 12 Times New Roman font.
2. You should carefully proofread your essay for grammar errors and misspelled words.
3. Your assignment will be collected on September 2, 2011, and will then be graded. This assignment represents 20% of the total grade for FYE101.

**Helpful Hints**

Be sure to look at the Common Reading Study Guide before you begin reading the book. Then, go back and consult the Guide periodically as you read through the novel. Doing this will help you in your understanding of the material.

Remember that there is no right or wrong answer to either question. Use your own opinion about what happens in the book, and then use specific examples from the book to support your opinion.

Aside from the clarity of writing in your answer, your essay grade will largely be a measure of how much you were able to open yourself up to the story and think critically about what you have read.