**Seniors - AP English Language and Composition**

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer describes the harrowing journey of Chris McCandless as he searches for the ideal “natural” lifestyle. McCandless’ story captures our imagination by appealing to the desire to be free from materialistic and emotional possessions. According to Krakauer, McCandless “invented a new life for himself, taking up residence at the ragged margin of our society, wandering across North America in search of raw, transcendent experience.”

**Assignment:**

1. Read and annotate this non-fiction work, paying close attention to the initial tone the author adopts. Identify the tone and contextual evidence of it in chapter one. If his tone changes during the course of the narration, note these changes and evidence as well.

2. What are the effects on the reader of Krakauer’s epigraphs that open each chapter and the inclusion of photos and maps of Chris’ journey.

3. Briefly comment on Chris’ emotional intimacy or lack thereof described in chapters 4-7.

4. Bearing in mind that Krakauer is not a psychologist, do you think he is under or overstating the effects of the father-son relationship and his family dynamics? Provide contextual evidence (ch. 7-13 especially).

5. Krakauer inserts his own experiences at the end of the book. Does this inclusion add or detract from McCandless’ experiences? Why?

In addition to these responses, an in-class essay on this work of literature will also be worth a letter grade for the first quarter of the next academic year in this course.