



**#noshortcuts**  
**#dothelittlethings**

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Summer Learning Experience for this summer. You will use an assigned Google Classroom, sent to you through your student email, to complete the assignment.

*On May 17, 2014, Admiral William H. McRaven addressed the graduating class of the University of Texas at Austin on their Commencement day. Taking inspiration from the university's slogan, "What starts here changes the world," he shared the ten principles he learned during the Navy Seal training that helped him overcome challenges not only in his training and long Naval career, but also throughout his life; and he explained how anyone can use these basic lessons to change themselves-and the world-for the better.*

*Admiral McRaven's original speech went viral with over 10 million views. Building on the core tenets laid out in the speech, McRaven now recounts tales from his own life and from those of people he encountered during his military service who dealt with hardship and made tough decisions with determination, compassion, honor, and courage. Told with great humility and optimism, this timeless book provides simple wisdom, practical advice, and words of encouragement that will inspire readers to achieve more, even in life's darkest moments.*

The object of this assignment is to reflect on how by not taking shortcuts in life and completing simple tasks you can set yourself up for success...and possibly change the world.

The assignment is separated into three parts that consist of the following:

1. **READ** Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life and Maybe the World by Admiral William H. McRaven. While reading the book, answer questions using the Google Form provided on your Google Classroom. There are a total of 20 questions, worth 1 point each. You are given one chance to answer the questions given. *(20 points)*

2. **WATCH** Admiral William McRaven's commencement address and complete the Edpuzzle assignment. The commencement address is approximately 20 minutes long and has 11 questions embedded into the video. In order to receive credit for watching the video, you must complete all the questions. Edpuzzle will not let you fast forward through the video and will automatically grade your responses. You are given one chance to answer the questions given. *(15 points)*

3. **WRITE** picking at least one of the ten lessons included in Admiral William McRaven's book and connect it to your own life. Clearly state which lesson you are using and answer the following questions:

- In what ways do you personally find the lesson in “Make Your Bed” to be relevant?
- What are some examples of “little things” that can have a big impact, both in your personal life and beyond in regards to your lesson?
- What are some ways that you have taken shortcuts in your life and how can you change that to impact your future using the advice from the lesson you selected?
- How does this lesson connect to our core values of faith, service, excellence, character, or community?

Responses should be submitted on Google Classroom and should be no less than 250 words. *(20 points)*

Scoring Rubric			
<p>Student picked more than one lesson and made a personal connection to the book.</p> <p>4 Points</p>	<p>Student picked one lesson and made a personal connection to the book.</p> <p>3 Points</p>	<p>Student picked a lesson but did not make a personal connection to the lesson.</p> <p>2 Points</p>	<p>Student did not pick a lesson but spoke about personal experiences.</p> <p>1 Point</p>
<p>Student provided multiple examples of little things that could have a big impact on their personal lives and beyond.</p> <p>4 Points</p>	<p>Student provided one example of a little thing that could have a big impact on their personal lives and beyond.</p> <p>3 Points</p>	<p>Student did not provide connections between a little thing and their personal life.</p> <p>2 Points</p>	<p>Student did not provide an example or make a connection.</p> <p>1 Point</p>
<p>Student identified multiple shortcuts they have taken and noted specific ways to make changes to their future.</p> <p>4 Points</p>	<p>Student identified one example of a shortcut they have taken and noted a specific way to make changes to their future.</p> <p>3 Points</p>	<p>Student identified examples of shortcuts they have taken but did not identify specific ways to make changes to their future.</p> <p>2 Points</p>	<p>Student did not identify specific examples of shortcuts that they have taken in their lives.</p> <p>1 Point</p>
<p>Student made connections to at least 4 Core Values and the lessons learned from the book.</p> <p>4 Points</p>	<p>Student made connections to 3 Core Values and the lessons learned from the book.</p> <p>3 Points</p>	<p>Student made connections to 2 Core Values and the lessons learned from the book.</p> <p>2 Points</p>	<p>Student made connection to 1 Core Value and the lessons learned from the book.</p> <p>1 Point</p>
<p>Student had no spelling and grammatical errors.</p> <p>4 Points</p>	<p>Student had 1 or 2 spelling and grammatical errors.</p> <p>3 Points</p>	<p>Student had 3 or 4 spelling and grammatical errors.</p> <p>2 Points</p>	<p>Student had 5 or more spelling and grammatical errors.</p> <p>1 Point</p>