



THE CAMPUS READING: REQUIRED ESSAY ASSIGNMENT



All incoming students are required to submit a reflective essay on the Campus Reading by **August 11**. To complete your essay on *Now is Not the Time to Panic* by Kevin Wilson, please select one of the following prompts.

In no more than 250 words, respond to the selected prompt. **Be sure to include the number of the prompt to which you are responding at the top of your essay.**

Instructions on how to submit the essay via Brightspace (beginning on August 1) are included with the reading and at **vu.edu/classof2027**.

As a reminder, your essay response will be shared with your faculty and student VUceptors; it will **not** be shared with the other members of your Visions group without your consent. If you have questions about this assignment, email **campus.reading@vanderbilt.edu**.

PROMPTS

1. In *Now is Not the Time to Panic*, Frankie and Zeke create a poster with a single line: "*The edge is a shantytown filled with gold seekers. We are fugitives, and the law is skinny with hunger for us*" (Wilson, 2022, p. 38). In no more than 250 words, explain why you think that phrase was so powerful for so many people.

2. In *Now is Not the Time to Panic* Hobart says:

"I hated being a teenager...Not because I thought something better was coming. I just never felt right inside my own body. And then I got older, and guess what? I still never felt right inside my body. I don't think I ever will...But I guess that's okay...it's not so bad if you never quite feel right in this world. It's still worth hanging around. You just have to look harder to find the things you love" (Wilson, 2022, p. 166).

In no more than 250 words, discuss where the spaces are when you feel "right" inside your own body, and where you do not. What do the spaces that feel right have in common?

3. Look through your highlights and notes from your reading of *Now is Not the Time to Panic*. Choose one of those sections that resonated with you, and in no more than 250 words, articulate why it mattered to you. It can matter to you for any reason at all: the section resonated with you, or it made you angry, or it perplexed you. The prompt is simply asking you to share why. Please briefly describe the section in your response.