You will be reading the book "The Nine" by Jeffrey Toobin over the summer. A brief book review states:

In The Nine, acclaimed journalist Jeffrey Toobin takes us into the chambers of the most important—and secret—legal body in our country, the Supreme Court, revealing the complex dynamic among the nine people who decide the law of the land. An institution at a moment of transition, the Court now stands at a crucial point, with major changes in store on such issues as abortion, civil rights, and church-state relations. Based on exclusive interviews with the justices and with a keen sense of the Court’s history and the trajectory of its future, Jeffrey Toobin creates in The Nine a riveting story of one of the most important forces in American life today.

You will be given 4 posts that you must respond to before the first day of school to receive full credit (40 points total). When you write your answers make sure you use examples from the book and outside sources. Be mindful of following MLA format for citing your sources. Make sure you use examples and evidence from the book or reliable outside sources to answer the questions. Below are the questions on the summer reading and each one is worth 10 points.

1) Please discuss the background and education of 4 of the 9 USSC justices. You can choose from the 2019 makeup of the SCOTUS bench or from the SCOTUS bench during the time period the book covers. (You may choose which 4 you want to write about). Make sure to detail the childhood or young adult experiences, education, highlights of their legal career, religious affiliation and organizations they were members of that may have influenced their judicial philosophy. Give specific examples to support your points. Avoid repeating what other students post and use outside sources as well as the page numbers of The Nine to support your conclusions. Make sure you follow MLA format for citing your sources.

2) Second Edmodo Post for The Nine:
Describe the relevance of The Nine to the political and social discourse in the current presidential administration and to the current political climate in our country. Include if relevant the presidential election and the two candidates and their policies. When you answer this question make sure you use current events and language from the book The Nine to support your answer. Make sure you follow MLA format for citing your sources.

3) Third Post for The Nine:
When deciding if Grutter v Bollinger should be overturned was the USSC bound by Stare decisis? As you know stare decisis is the "legal principle under which judges are obligated to follow the precedents established in prior decisions". In Chapter 25 of The Nine, Jeffrey Toobin quoted Justice Stephen Breyer’s comment about the 2006-2007 Supreme Court term: “It is not often in law that so few have so quickly changed so much” (p. 390). What is the significance of this statement, especially as it related to the legal term ‘stare decisis’? Please use your knowledge of the law and legal precedent as well as language from the book The Nine in answering this question. Make sure you follow MLA format for citing your sources. Make sure to use examples and evidence to support your answer.

4) Assignment #4
After reading The Nine did you learn more about the personalities of the justices? Since this book was written new justices have come on the bench. Do you think Trump’s appointees -- Justices Kavanagh and Gorsuch-- will make a difference in the majority opinion of the USSC? Analyze how Justice Scalia’s death and the retirement of Justice Kennedy have changed the dynamic of the Supreme Court since this book was published. Use a recent contemporary case decision from the
USSC to provide evidence to support your answer to the above question. Look at OYEZ website for case names and summaries. Make sure you follow MLA format for citing your sources.