Questions for the 2017 ILA Summer Reading:
Becoming a Learner by Matthew L. Sanders

Instructions: Complete the reading and answer the following questions. Type your answers, print them, and bring them with you to class on the first day of ILA at 9am on August 21st.

1. At the bottom of page one, the author writes, “I hoped I was the critical thinker, but to be honest I wasn’t sure.” Do you believe you are a critical thinker? If so, what traits do you possess that allow you to be a critically engaged learner? If you are not sure, what critical thinking traits would you like to acquire in college?

2. Of the four “Outcomes of Becoming” listed in chapter two, select one that you feel your educational experiences thus far have allowed you to develop, and select one that you hope your college education will help you develop the most. Explain your answers.

3. On page twenty, the author contrasts differences between the student and the learner. After examining the descriptions of both, do you think the transition from student to learner is a matter of personal motivation and intentional development, or do you think that some people are naturally destined to be students and others are destined to be learners? Explain your thinking.

4. The section titled, “Learning Cannot Be Cheated,” in chapter four, is written as if cheating is a viable option, but is not one that you should take because it has damaging results. Do you think this is an effective argument against cheating? How would you strengthen the argument of this section and write it in a way to encourage both yourself and your peers to not engage in cheating behaviors of any kind?

5. In chapter five, Sanders includes seven questions that he encourages you to answer for yourself. Select three of them that are most applicable to you as a learner and answer them here.
Questions for the 2017 ILA Summer Movie:

*Devil’s Playground* (2002) directed by Lucy Walker

**Instructions:** Watch the movie and answer the following questions. Type your answers, print them, and bring them with you to class on the first day of ILA at 9am on August 21st.

1. Describe the Amish cultural practice of *Rumspringa*. What is its defining goal? Based on the evidence in this film, do you think *Rumspringa* successful in its intent?

2. The “English” way of life is seen negatively by the Amish and is called the Devil’s Playground. Does the documentary support or challenge the assertion that the non-Amish way of life is harmful or evil? Give examples of the positive and negative impacts on the young people in the documentary.

3. At the end of the documentary Faron states that, “I am not English and not Amish—I’m just me.” What does this suggest about his sense of self and community? Do you agree that he is no longer Amish but not yet “English”? If you decided to move to Australia for a year, could you say at the end of your stay you were an Australian or no longer an American?

4. One of the interviewees states, “If you are going to have a good community, each individual has to give up a bit of their individuality”. Do you agree with this claim? What do you think he means by the word “good”? Do you think he would describe the “English” community as “good”? Why or why not?

5. Velda seems to symbolize the woman who sheds the burdens of a constraining culture and discovers herself. She is liberated. What message should we take away from her story and how does it complement Joann’s story.