



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL YOUTH HUMANITIES ACADEMY

SUMMER 2025

Welcome to the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Youth Humanities Academy!

Reflect | Engage | Prepare for College Life

Over the next nine weeks, you will be introduced to the study of the humanities through discussion-based seminars, tutorials, digital humanities labs and City as Text experiences in Cleveland. By critically engaging with a set of Big Questions and collectively practicing different modes of inquiry, each one of you will grow as deep thinkers equipped with the tools to live thoughtful and reflective lives, evaluate and participate in contemporary civic life and succeed in future collegiate pursuits.

PERSEVERANCE
COMPLETION DRIVEN
Leadership
COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES
CHALLENGE

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

Program Meets Monday – Thursday | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday, June 2

Start of the Mandel Youth Humanities Academy

June 30 – July 3

Program break

July 31

Program End

(Regular program time and public presentations from 5 – 7:30 p.m.)



BIG QUESTIONS

**What does it
mean to know?**

**How is the past built
into the present?**

**How do we
make meaning?**

WEEK 1: BUILDING COMMUNITY

Who am I? Who are we? Who decides who we are?

In this introductory sequence, students will reflect on who they are as learners and thinkers and begin building a collaborative learning community grounded in intellectual autonomy.

Monday: Introductions with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams, Mentors MYHA and Alumni Fellows

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Tuesday: Reading Experiments and Active Listening with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Wednesday: Get Out of Your Comfort Zone with the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Thursday: Humanities as Craft Tools of Thinking with Dr. Busch and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

WEEK 2: PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY

What does it mean to know? How do our ways of knowing shape our understanding of truth, belief and the self?

In this sequence on philosophical inquiry, students will examine how knowledge is formed, challenged and shared across different ways of knowing and practice intellectual humility by questioning assumptions, listening carefully and staying open to uncertainty.

Monday: Philosophy and Virtual Reality with Dr. Busch and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Tuesday: Faith and Doubt with Dr. Jordan, Jason Moore and the Rev. Randy Partain (UUC)

Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland

Wednesday: Mind and Body with Nicole Robinson (Narrative Medicine)

Location: Akron Children's Hospital

Thursday: Reflections with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

WEEK 3:

Monday: Working With Our Hands at Soulcraft

Location: Soulcraft

Tuesday: Working With Our Hands at Soulcraft

Location: Soulcraft

Wednesday: Reflections with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams, Mentors and Jeremy Bryan from Refresh Collective

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Thursday: NO PROGRAM

WEEK 4: HISTORICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY

How is the past built into the present? Whose stories shape the world we live in, and what gets forgotten?

In this sequence on historical and sociological inquiry, students will investigate how systems, places and stories carry history into the present and practice intellectual honesty by uncovering what has been hidden or silenced — and reflecting on their relationship to those truths.

Monday: Hidden Histories with Stewards of Historic Preservation (SHiP)

Location: Tri-C Western Campus and Rocky River Nature Center

Tuesday: Structures of Place with the Fair Housing Center

Location: Cleveland Heights to Shaker Heights

Wednesday: Archives of Place with the Cleveland Public Library

Location: Cleveland Public Library/Public Square

Thursday: Reflections with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

BREAK

WEEK 6

Monday: History of the Mind with the Cummings Center

Location: Cummings Center for the History of Psychology

Tuesday: Students in History with the May 4 archive at Kent State University

Location: May 4 Visitors Center

Wednesday: Music and Culture with Dr. Blake and the Rock Hall

Location: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Thursday: Reflections with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

WEEK 7: ARTISTIC AND LITERARY INQUIRY

How do we make meaning? How do artists use form, stories and images to shape how we see the world and ourselves?

In this sequence on artistic and literary inquiry, students will engage in storytelling, interpretation and creative work and practice intellectual open-mindedness by exploring unfamiliar perspectives and recognizing that meaning can be made in many forms.

Monday: Making Art as Personal and Public with the Museum of Creative Human Art

Location: West 78th Street Studios

Tuesday: Liminal Spaces with the Cleveland Museum of Art

Location: Cleveland Museum of Art

Wednesday: Boundaries of Art with the Museum of Contemporary Art

Location: Cleveland Institute of Art

Thursday: Reflections with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

WEEK 8

Monday: Poetic Expressions with Poetry Unplugged

Location: MidTown Tech Hive

Tuesday: Telling Your Story with the Reading Room CLE and Story Club Cleveland

Location: ThirdSpace Action Lab

Wednesday: Print Expressions with Zygote Press

Location: Zygote Press

Thursday: Reflections with Dr. Busch, Dr. Williams and Mentors

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

WEEK 9: EACH ONE, TEACH ONE: HOW DO I SHARE WHAT I'VE LEARNED AND WHO I'M BECOMING?

What do I want to carry forward from this experience into the community and the person I'm becoming?

In the concluding week, students will share their learning with others through public speaking, exhibits and performance and draw on intellectual courage to take risks and imagine how their voice can shape future communities.

Monday: College Pathways with Minds Matter Cleveland

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Tuesday: Speaking De La Soul with Dr. Williams

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

Wednesday: Speaking De La Soul with Dr. Williams and MYHA Alumni

Location: Lakewood Park

Thursday: Speaking De La Soul (Public Humanities Presentations)

Location: Mandel Humanities Center

(*Note: Presentations will be from 5 – 7 p.m.)



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