

### Assignment #3

#### READ:

- Ch. 9 of Andre Agassi's memoir, *Open*. (Note that Agassi worked with a "ghost writer," meaning that a writer he chose, J. R. Moehringer, shaped material that Agassi narrated into a tape recorder, and then they worked on it together. This is interesting to think about mainly because this book has a very strong voice.)
- "Slackers," a profile of distance runner Alberto Salazar, by popular writer Malcolm Gladwell.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION: Both of these pieces are very good at drawing readers in, and we'll talk about why that is. But also: both pieces describe the toll that competition takes on athletes who perform at a very high level over many years. What are some aspects of this toll? What seems to be Agassi's and Salazar's (and Gladwell's) attitude toward this toll? What do you think of it? Does it affect how you think of your own sports heroes.

TO PREPARE for ESSAY 1, READ the following essays:

- "What I Learned from Getting Knocked around" by Steve Macone (NY Times, 2012).
- Essays by Dirk Beck and Jesse Orłowski from last fall's Sports class.

NOTE: You do NOT have to write a proposal for Essay 1. But DO read these examples, to get an idea of the possibilities and scope of this assignment. We will discuss them briefly in class.

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