

Welcome to our final quarter together! Our first unit was entitled *Exploring Identity: Past, Present and Future*—this quarter we are branching out, past ourselves, and exploring *Human Connections*. Here are some of the essential questions we will explore:

- How important are our connections to others—and why?
- What life lessons have you learned from other people, from family, from friends, from history, and from social and political connections?
- What are our responsibilities to others, for helping the poor, the sick, the elderly, etc.?
- In our first quarter we discussed people we admire. Are the people you admire the same people society seems to admire? How so—or why not?
- Americans are often described as being disconnected from others (or less connected than they had been in the past), that family connections are not as strong, that people no longer remain in their jobs as long as they once did, etc. Is this true, in your experience? What types of connections are required for our individual, emotional health?
- What is the American Dream? How was it defined in the past—and how would you define it today?
- In our past, American society has been changed by individuals/groups who have pushed for social change—what are your thoughts about the modern day movements?
- As you come down the home stretch of high school, what are your thoughts about American education? What changes should take place in order to improve American education?

Student Assessment for this quarter will be based upon the following formula:

Writing Assignments:	50%
Quizzes/Tests	20%
Homework	10%
SSR	10%
Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Formal Writing Assignments: We will write informally in our writing notebooks in class, but there are two formal two writing assignments due this quarter; the choices for each are described below. Each assignment is to be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font, size 12, with an MLA heading; it may be anywhere from 1 ½- 2 pages in length.

Assignment #1: College Essay OR Short Story

Rough Drafts due April 25 / 26

(full credit for rough drafts is only given if you bring your draft to class, unless you are absent)

Final Drafts due April 29 / 30

LRD = May 9/10

Choice A: The College Essay: the 2019-20 Common Application Essay Prompts are:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Specifications:

- Please type the question you are answering at the top of your essay (to clarify the prompt you have selected). ☺
- Please make sure that your essay is 1 ½-2 ½ pages in length (font Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced); the max word count is 650 words.

Essay Tips

- The point of a college application essay is to reveal what is important to you—focus upon one topic (don't try to include everything you have ever done—focus on the prompt).

- Tell the application committee something about you that they will not see anywhere else in your application. Listing extracurricular involvements (which they will see elsewhere) is a missed opportunity to show them how awesome you are!
- Pull your reader in from the beginning. An attention-grabbing hook is job one for a memorable essay. Application committees read thousands of applications. Thousands! Your essay is your chance to set your application apart from all of the other applications they will see/read.
- Write about *your* personal experiences. Sure, the topic of your essay can be a family member, coach, teacher, etc., but colleges are looking to admit you, not your grandmother.
- Be conscious of hot topic issues and potentially controversial topics (politics, religion, war, pending/recently passed legislation). If an opinion or idea is an important part of who you are, don't be afraid to write about it, but be sure to be respectful of both sides of any issue and remember that your essay is a professional document.
- Write naturally. Use your voice to show your personality. While your goal is to be expressive, do not try to dazzle the committee with your word choice (or your command of a thesaurus). **Be you.** Your essay can be funny, if that is your personality. But if you don't consider yourself funny, this isn't the space to try to be.
- **Edit and proofread your essay carefully.** Spell-check doesn't catch everything!

Choice B: Creative Writing: Short Story

Students do not get many opportunities to write in a fiction format. You may want to give it a try! Make up a fictional character—and put him/her in a situation. Make something happen! The sky's the limit!

Specifications: 1 ½ - 2 ½ pages in length (font Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced); the max word count is 650 words.

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Assignment #2:
 Rough Drafts due May 13 / 14
(full credit for rough drafts is only given if you bring your draft to class, unless you are absent)
 Final Drafts due May 15 / 16
No Rewrites on Assignment #2

- Interview Project: Interview a friend/family member regarding their advice on...
 - 1 healthy thing that helps with anxiety / relieves stress...
 - 1 rule for life is.....

- Best life lesson—if I have learned one thing, it’s....
 - **A Letter of Gratitude:** Dr. Tal Ben Shahar, Harvard University professor who teaches a course on happiness, writes, “A gratitude letter is not just a thank-you note. It is a thoughtful examination of the meaning and pleasure that you derive from the relationship; it describes particular experiences and shared dreams, and whatever else in the relationship is a source of joy” (*Happier*, 122). Write a letter of gratitude to someone who has truly helped and supported you.
 - **Civic Responsibilities:** What are our specific civic responsibilities? Do we, for example, have the responsibility of helping the poor, the ill, the elderly? Are we fulfilling these responsibilities—or should changes be made?
 - **A Social Cause:** Define a movement you are a part of—and why you are a part of this movement (for example, Black Lives Matter, Me Too, School Safety). What are the goals of this movement? What is being done?
 - **Education Project:** Describe a change you would like to see in American education (is there something that needs to be taught that is not being taught, for example?). Is this a change in elementary school, middle school, high school? How should this educational change take place?
 - **Public Safety Announcement (PSA):** Select a Problem in Society and Write/Direct a Public Safety Announcement (PSA) that addresses this issue
 - **The New American Dream:** describe how the American Dream has changed over time—and predict how it will evolve in the future.
 - **Social Media and Human Connections:** How have the media impacted our connections to others? Some say, for example, that an addiction to social media has limited our human connections, that people don’t talk face-to-face in the same ways. For this choice, describe the impact of media on our human connections.
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Final Project: Student Inquiry Projects (SIPS):

This semester we have been working on an exploration of language, examining the units DEFINITION OF SELF and HUMAN CONNECTIONS. For your final project, please select an issue of personal significance to explore through the SIPs process (confused in terms of a topic? Please see the title page of this quarterly guide to give you some direction...) ☺

Due Dates for each part of the project:

(The proposal, the sources, and the rough draft are each counted as a homework grade)

- *May 21/22:* Proposals due (1-1 ½ pages, 3 paragraphs—see below)

Written Proposal

Your written proposal is a step toward your rough draft; it should consist of three paragraphs, each answering one of the following questions. (The proposal should be in between 1 to 1 ½ pages in length.)

- What is your project? What is your essential question?
- Why is this project worthwhile?
- What do you expect to learn from this project?

- *May 23/28* Preliminary Bibliographies due (remember that a Bibliography is pre-project; a Works Cited is post-project)
*Remember that you need 2-3 databases AND 2-3 interview sources (for your Bibliography and for your Works Cited)

- *June 4/5*: Rough Drafts

We will peer-critique our rough drafts in class. To attain a 100 homework grade for your rough draft, make sure it:

- ✓ Has an MLA heading and is 4-5 pages in length, in Times New Roman, size 12
- ✓ Has a Works Cited at the end of the paper (which is not part of the 4-5 pages) and that each source in the Works Cited is cited parenthetically within the body of the paper

- *June 12 / 13*: Final Draft

Please make sure your final draft:

- ✓ Has an MLA heading and is 4-5 pages in length, in Times New Roman, size 12
- ✓ Has a Works Cited at the end of the paper (which is not part of the 4-5 pages) and that each source in the Works Cited is cited parenthetically within the body of the paper
- ✓ Is stapled on top of your peer-edited rough draft (-10 if it is missing)

English Language 11/12: Quarter Four Calendar: Diana

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12
☺ Spring Break, Yo!! ☺ Have a fun and relaxing week!				
April 22 <i>Sup. Conf. Day</i>	April 23	April 24	April 25 Assignment #1: Rough Drafts Due	April 26 Assignment #1: Rough Drafts Due
April 29 Assignment #1: Final Drafts Due	April 30 Assignment #1: Final Drafts Due	May 1	May 2	May 3
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9 LRD #1	May 10 LRD #1
May 13 Assignment #2: Rough Drafts Due	May 14 Assignment #2: Rough Drafts Due	May 15 Assignment #2: Final Drafts Due	May 16 Assignment #2: Final Drafts Due	May 17
May 20	May 21 Final Project: Proposals Due	May 22 Final Project: Proposals Due	May 23 Final Project: Prelim. Bibliographies Due	May 24 <i>May Recess Day ☺</i>
May 27 <i>Memorial Day Holiday: No School</i>	May 28 Final Project: Prelim. Bibliographies Due	May 29	May 30	May 31
June 3	June 4 Final Project: Rough Drafts Due	June 5 Final Project: Rough Drafts Due	June 6	June 7
June 10	June 11	June 12 Final Project: Final Drafts Due	June 13 Final Project: Final Drafts Due	June 14
June 17	June 18 <i>Regents Exams Begin Today</i>	☺ June 19	June 20	June 21
June 24	June 25	June 26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Graduation! ☺ Congrats to all Grads! </div>	June 27	June 28

☺ **If you have questions, please ask! I am here to help! ☺**
Let's make this the best quarter of the year!