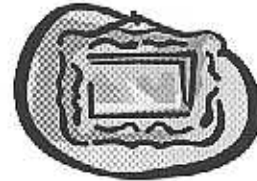


Windows and Mirrors

Looking for/at America And Ourselves

English 3 – 2004-2005 – Mrs. Pincus



Dear Students,

In this English class, we will take an inquiry approach to the study of language and literature. The emphasis will be on American Literature and the texts that we read will connect to social, cultural, political and economic issues you are exploring in your American History class. We will strive to become a community of learners who use reading, writing, listening and speaking to raise and explore questions that are important to our individual and collective lives. The primary mode of communication in this classroom will be dialogue in which we listen and speak to each other in thoughtful ways to promote deeper understanding. Multiple perspectives and divergent points of view will be invited, encouraged and supported. I hope that the texts we read and the projects we do will provide you with **windows** into the experiences of others as well as **mirrors** reflecting your own lives and concerns.

Literature – We will read a variety of challenging texts, including *Catcher in the Rye*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Beloved*. We will also read plays by Shakespeare and Arthur Miller. We will become familiar with contemporary literary theories and criticism, with each of the different theories providing a different framework for looking at literature.

Writing – We will write for a variety of purposes and audiences. The academic essay and personal narrative will be reviewed and practiced. All work will be kept in a writing portfolio and you will reflect on your growth and development once a quarter. **All major assignments including journal responses must be typed.**

Listening and Speaking – Everyone is expected to participate in whole group and small group discussion. You will also have the opportunity to present your work to the class.

Language and Vocabulary – The rules of grammar and usage will be reviewed in the context of your writing. We will use *the Bedford Handbook* as a reference and practice for language learning. In addition, we will investigate the history and development of the English language through literature. Vocabulary study will center around Latin and Greek Roots with an emphasis on SAT preparation.

State Standards and the PSSA – All of the work that we will be doing in this class is closely aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards for Reading, English and Language Arts. All 11th grade students must earn a score of “proficient” or “advanced” on the PSSA in Reading and Writing. In the past, virtually all of my 11th grade students have been able to achieve this.

Research – The emphasis in 11th grade will be literary research. Each of you will engage in at least one literary research project. We will also explore and critique the Internet as a research tool, paying particular attention to the efficacy and legitimacy of various sources on the net.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity – Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and students who engage in dishonest academic behavior will be penalized. While students who do cheat will be penalized, my **emphasis** will be on **educating** you about academic integrity and the standards of honesty required by the colleges you plan to attend. (see additional hand-out)

Grading Policy and Expectations – Everyone is expected to be prompt, polite, prepared and present. In addition you must participate. The grades are divided into two categories: process and product. **Process includes homework, drafts, journals and participation. It will account for one major grade a marking period. Product includes presentations, papers, performances and tests.**

Vouchers and Late Assignments – Each student will receive **one voucher per quarter**. This enables you to hand in work **one day late** for any reason, including illness, college visits and emergencies. You must notify me **in advance** that you are planning to use your voucher. If you have no voucher or you did not notify me, you will receive **half credit** for the late assignment. Additional process points will be awarded to students who do not use their vouchers at the end of each quarter.

Materials – A loose leaf book, and a folder are required by _____

I look forward to working with you this year. Open and honest communication is very important to your success in this class. Please feel free to come see me before or after school in the English office. You may also reach me at home in the evening. My phone number is 610-668-4264 and my email address is **mrpincus@comcast.net**