**English III**

**Ms. Andrea Thomas**

Meade County High School, Room #232

Essential Question

What writings have defined the American Identity and how can my choices alter, effect, and improve this identity?

Course Description

Throughout this school year, students will study, discuss, and analyze the literature that has defined the American identity and the American dream. This class will offer each student the opportunity to express his or her voice and individuality through choice and personal responses so that he or she can also contribute to the idea of what it means to be an American. The work required for the course will demand close reading, thoughtful discussion and informed writing regarding the material covered in class. The writing will be varied and include writing to learn, writing to demonstrate learning, and authentic, real-world writing pieces. Furthermore, pieces of writing or other projects will include 21st Century skills through the inclusion of technology and responsible internet usage. This inclusion will allow students to not only understand the effect that literature of the past has on the present and our growth as a nation, but take an active role in continually shaping our future American identity.

Course Expectations

* Be where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there
  + Be in your seat when class begins; the first 10 minutes are extremely important
  + Ask before leaving the classroom
* Put forth an acceptable effort
  + There is no “down” time, you can always be working on something for class
  + There is no “busy” work – every assignment has a purpose and requires time
  + Think critically – do not accept surface level answers; dig deeper
* Be respectful of yourself and others
  + We are a community – we listen to all voices in the room equally
  + Consider the other point of view
  + Ask before using I-pods, MP-3, etc

Units

* Why was the Bill of Rights Necessary?
* What is the driving force for individual rights and the abolition of slavery?
* Are we obligated to work to the betterment of human lives?
* Can a person still achieve his or her American Dream

Objectives

* Study various works of American Literature through engaged, critical reading
  + Includes focus on characters, action, structure, and language

Figurative languages, imagery, symbolism, tone, etc.

* Consider literary works in their historical context and in relation to the present
* Deepen students’ understanding and appreciation for authors’ manipulation and command of language and the effect it produces
* Use the writing process in order to produce published works
  + Works include informative, narrative, argumentative, analytical, and reflective pieces
* Learn and practice style elements in writing in order to avoid writing errors

Grading

* Grading will be based on a point scale with the number of points for each assignment correlating to the work required of the task. For example, small daily assignments may be only 10 points while writing pieces and projects could be 100 points or more. This points will be divided into weighted categories as well
  + Tests/ Projects – 35%
  + Writing – 35%
  + Learning Checks – 20%
  + AR – 10%

Supplies

* Notebook/Binder
* Folder
* Writer’s Notebook (Composition Notebook)
* Pen and pencils
* Email account - this can be a personal account or the school provided account
* Recommended: USB

My website: msthomasenglish3.weebly.com

Access this website to find additional handouts, assignments, my contact information, and online discussions