**American Spirits**

**English III Final Project**

“How beauteous mankind is!

O brave new world that has such people in’t!”

-Shakespeare

Much of what we have studied in English III explores how culture, community, and society influence one’s personal identity and morality. Human beings are motivated by forces that drive him/her (survival, hunger, desire to achieve, etc.), and these choices can often define a person, his/her character and his/her influence on their world. We have come to find out that, although there are many factors that contribute to one’s identity and contribution to society, typically, one is remembered for one salient characteristic. This characteristic is a driving force seems to be a common thread throughout one’s life and heavily influences how one makes ethical choices.

**Purpose/Objective:**

In a small group (3-4), you will produce a multi-media presentation that demonstrates higher order thinking (see pyramid), as well as, focuses on one theme represented in the literature you have read throughout the year. You will identify a specific driving force behind a chosen fictional character(s), then research and present how the spirit of chosen character(s) is evident in a real life individual.

The focus of the presentation should be on the “spirit” you are presenting and how it is relevant and evidenced in fiction and reality.

**Some “motivators”, or driving forces, that we have seen through this year’s literature are:**

Innovation, invention, perseverance, survival, candor, self-sacrifice, artistry, intellectual, adventure, selfishness, humility, courage, fortitude, heroism, integrity, ambition, romance, friendship, safety/security, honor, idealism, stability, status, power, curiosity, family, justice, inner beauty, devotion, etc….and many more!

**Consider the numerous characters represented in the literature below:**

*The Crucible,* “The Devil and Tom Walker,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Yellow Wallpaper,” *The Great Gatsby, Of Mice and Men, The Catcher in the Rye*

**Instructions/Project Overview:**

Analyze, evaluate and propose similarities to chosen fictional character(s) and a real life connection. Your presentation (estimated to be approximately 20-25 min) should include the following:

* Identify and define chosen “spirit,”
* Identify fictional character(s) with examples and quotes from the book/play
* Present an individual that embodies the spirit you have chosen. This cannot be a commonly known individual. Investigate people known for firsts, Nobel Prize winners, innovators in his/her field, philanthropists, world/business leaders, people who have succeeded despite adversity, unsung heroes, authors, artists, etc.
* Present a concise biography of the real life individual (Basic who, what, when, where, how, why about chosen person- include relevant anecdotes…who/what made them who they were/are)
* Historical context of individual/conditions of the times in which he lived and what changes were needed
* Choose a written document (speech, poem, essay, song, etc.) from or about this individual and share with the class. This piece should elucidate his/her “spirit of mankind”. Depending on the length, you may need to just read an excerpt. You may choose to also include pertinent quotes from or about this person that supports his/her “spirit” or illustrate beliefs/contributions to society.
* Include important drawings, paintings, photos, documents, etc.
* Discuss what the individual’s legacy is. What critical decisions did he/she have to make? What have they left behind? How has their life benefitted society? Why does this person embody your chosen “spirit of mankind”?
* Share where we see the quality being encouraged in modern society (film, music, awards, events, programs, etc.)
* Incorporate a creative activity that involves the class, enhances understanding of and reveals how we might exemplify said “spirit of mankind.”
* Finally, apply what you have learned about persuasion, rhetorical appeals, and logical fallacies to create a 30-60 second commercial “pitching” this characteristic. (If filming is not an option for your group, you may create an 8 ½ x 11 full-page print ad…similar to what you would see in a magazine). You will need to explain your content and creativity in a way that demonstrates knowledge of rhetorical terms.

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