**Progress Points**

50 total points required EACH QUARTER

Vision and Goals: The skills you learn in this class are applicable to the wide world of information. Even if you never read another fictional novel again, you can apply those skills to anything else you could possibly read or write. With that in mind, the goal of this year-long project is to give you an opportunity to start applying those skills to a topic that you are passionate about.

Each option that requires a written analysis/reflection should—in general—total about one page. For full credit, every paper you turn in should be typed using 12 point Times New Roman and double spaced. An MLA style header should be present at the top, with the following requirements addressed in paragraph format.

Please come and ask me if you have a specific question, concern, or idea. Communication is key to the successful implementation of this project!

**Bibliography (Required Quarterly)**

Points: **15**

Limit: 4

Requirements: Create three bibliography entries each quarter for reputable sources that address your problem. Your entries should meet these requirements:

* An MLA style citation
* Summary of the article (2-3 sentences)
* Explanation of relevance to topic (2-3 sentences)

**Independent Reading**

Points: **20**

Limit: 4

Requirements: Read a novel of your choice and critically analyze its connection to your problem through a literary lens. Include the following:

* Name the title and author of the novel.
* Identify the genre of the story.
* List the major characters.
* Give a brief description of the conflict(s).
* Describe what you liked/disliked about the book.
* Respond to **three** of the following items:
  + Describe the perspectives/opinions of each main character in regards to your problem.
  + Is the setting crucial to the characters’ development or to the successful unfolding of the plot? Why or why not?
  + What do you know about the author? How does this person’s ethnic background, gender, time in history, or social position affect the work?
  + In what ways did this novel change your perspective or expand your ideas in regards to your problem?
  + What allusions are present in this novel? In other words, does the text incorporate historical references to real people or events that are relevant to your problem?
  + What solutions does the text offer in regards to your problem? Do you think this is a viable solution to the problem? In what ways might this solution fall short?

**Film Analysis**

Points: **15**

Limit: 4

Requirements: Watch a film of your choice and critically analyze its connection to your problem through a literary lens. Writing requirements:

* Name the film and its director. State the run time, major actors/actresses, and year of release.
* Name and briefly describe the main characters.
* Briefly describe the setting – the time and place.
* In 1 –2 sentences summarize the plot. (Example: A woman searches for gold in the jungle but finds herself instead.)
* Identify and explain the connection between your film of choice and your problem.
* Respond to **three** of the following items:
  + Describe the perspectives/opinions of each main character in regards to your problem.
  + Is the setting crucial to the characters’ development or to the successful unfolding of the plot? Why or why not?
  + What do you know about the director and/or writer? How does this person’s ethnic background, gender, time in history, or social position affect the work?
  + In what ways did this film change your perspective or expand your ideas in regards to your problem?
  + What allusions are present in this film? In other words, does the film incorporate historical references to real people or events that are relevant to your problem?
  + What solutions does the film offer in regards to your problem? Do you think this is a viable solution to the problem? In what ways might this solution fall short?

**Volunteer Work**

Points: **5-15**

Limit: 2

Requirements: Conference with Mrs. Aman about what you plan to do and with whom you will be working. Come to the conference prepared to give me details about what exactly you will be doing and what your learning goals are (how will this experience influence your studies?) You will need to provide me with a signed permission form from the adult you plan on volunteering for stating they are willing to vouch for your attendance. Points will be awarded on a sliding scale based on time spent volunteering and whether a written reflection is turned in at the end. Optional writing requirements:

* How does this cause relate to your problem? How did you learn about this opportunity?
* What did you go into this experience hoping to learn/give/teach/etc.?
* What are the three biggest things you learned based on this experience? What was the overall positive impact of your time spent on this experience?
* Is this something you would do again? Why or why not?

**Interview/Survey**

Points: **10-15**

Limit: 2

Requirements: Conduct an interview or survey in which you carefully develop ten questions that relate directly to the issue you are researching. If you are interviewing an individual, they should have a connection to your topic, and you should summarize their answer to each questions. The questions you ask them should be open-ended, meaning there could be many possible answers. If you are conducting a survey, you should poll at least 20 individuals, and you must report the results using a visual aid (i.e. pie chart, bar graph, line graph). The questions you ask should be multiple choice, meaning there are limited answers possible. Whether interviewing or surveying, you must write a one paragraph reflection in which you discuss what you learned from this experience and how it has influenced your opinion on the topic.

**Ted Talk/Podcast Review**

Points: **10**

Limit: 4

Requirements: Find a Ted Talk or podcast that addresses your topic. Include a link to the video/audio along with these writing requirements:

* Who is the speaker and what is their background? Specifically, how does the speaker feel about the problem presented?
* What did you learn from this that you didn’t already know?
* What solutions does the speaker offer in regards to your problem? Do you think this is a viable solution to the problem? In what ways might this solution fall short?

**Current Events**

Points: **15**

Limit: 4

Requirements: Find a recent news article that relates directly to your topic. This article should come from a reputable source. Along with your article, write a reflection which addresses the following writing requirements:

* How does this current event relate to your problem of study?
* Why did this current event stand out to you? What makes it interesting to you?
* What did you learn from this that you didn’t already know?
* What are the implications of this event? What will/should happen because of it? How does it impact the world of the people closest to it? How does it impact your life? Why should anyone else care about it?
* What are two critical questions you have as a result of learning about this event?

**Grammar**

Points: **15**

Limit: 2

Requirements: Find an informal piece of writing (something posted on a blog or on social media) that directly addresses the problem you are studying. Print a copy of the text and attach a written reflection to the text. Writing requirements:

* Identify the writer and give a brief description of who they are.
* Describe the platform in which the text is presented.
* Summarize the author’s argument in 2-3 sentences.
* Evaluate their writing style and respond to **two** of the following questions:
  + Did the author’s writing style make you more or less likely to take their ideas seriously? Why? Consider elements such as punctuation, language, and formatting.
  + What could the author have done to make their argument stronger? What are they lacking? Show me how you would present their ideas in a more effective manner.
  + Does the author use active or passive voice? What, in your opinion, is more effective for addressing the topic at hand?

**Creative Writing**

Points: **10-40**

Limit: 2

Requirements: Points will be awarded on a sliding scale based on word count between 500-2,000 words (approximately 5 points for every 250 words). Writing can be about any facet of your problem and in any style (biography, poem, fictional story, essay, etc.) you wish. Writing must be typed and word count included on the bottom.

**Poetry/Music Interpretation**

Points: **5**

Limit: 2

Requirements: Find a poem or song that addresses your topic. Along with a copy of the text, write a reflection that answers the following questions:

* Who is the writer/singer? What is their connection to/views on this problem?
* What literary elements are present in the piece? How do these devices influence the overall feeling/mood?
* Why did this poem/song stand out to you? What makes it interesting to you?
* If your song has a music video, how does this add to your understanding of the lyrics?

**Vocabulary List**

Points: **10**

Limit: 2

Requirements: Create a list of ten vocabulary words that are necessary to understanding the problem you are studying. For each term, include a standard definition along with a brief explanation (1-2 sentences) describing its relevance to your topic.

**Other Ideas**

Can you think of something else you’d like to do? Run it by me!

Requirements for student choice:

* Project MUST include reading and/or writing *something.*
* All aspects of the project must be school appropriate.
* Student must present me with a full picture of what you want to do, what the project would entail, how much time it will realistically take, and how many points you feel it should be worth.
* Conference with me to discuss the above considerations prior to beginning.