

English IV: On the Road to Justice (*All American Boys, A Thousand Splendid Suns, and/or Sold*)

Unit Objective:

This unit will engage students in current events affecting our society now. We will attempt to build answers to some important essential questions, such as:

- How are prejudice and bias created? How do we overcome them?
- What are the responsibilities of the individual regarding issues of social justice?
- Can literature serve as a vehicle for social change?
- When should an individual take a stand against what he/she believes to be an injustice? What are the most effective ways to do this?

Purpose:

This unit offers a variety of perspectives and encourages engagement in wider American society and on to the larger world stage. Students are asked to consider multiple viewpoints regarding current events to develop their own arguments supporting or refuting these ideas. It is vital for students to leave the protective walls of high school prepared to face the injustices that will invariably come upon them. With the tools needed for successful navigation of these events, students will be better prepared to adapt, affect change, and solve them successfully.

Materials:

As this is an ELA class, students will be “reading” the world through novel and poem analysis, informative and persuasive nonfiction critique, and photojournalism and film/documentary analysis. Students will engage in individual and small group investigation of a variety of incidents related to actual current events.

Product:

Students will design and produce a project (blog, documentary, creative writing, etc.) that is a synthesis of their understanding and personal viewpoint of a selected topic. They will be asked to incorporate some of the readings from class but will also investigate materials of their own choosing to support their stance on an issue. While this project is the largest product of this unit, students will be reading and writing consistently throughout to more deeply understand their own stance on a specific concern.

More on this final project will be given at a later date.