The Research Author Project (RAP)

For 11th graders, the name of the game is indeed…….RAP. The fundamental task involves a careful study of a seminal figure in American Literature. You will examine a major work, career, and historical context of your author. As this is a joint assignment for American Literature and History classes, a successful RAP will demonstrate a student’s abilities and growth in respect to written, analytical, spoken, and research skills.

The fundamental and supreme goal here…….the element of your work that determines success or failure, separates the strong from the weak, the excellent from the average is your ability to use your RAP as a way of taking a careful and nuanced look at American culture.

Depending on your author, you will look to Mrs. Klein or Dr. Barksdale as your overall advisor for your project. Your teachers will work as a team to assign work and evaluate your progress. The project advisor is simply a resource to help you with your specific topic anytime you need some extra guidance.

Remember: Communication is key! Talk with your teachers and Ms. Kochel frequently.

Over the next month, you will work to familiarize yourself with this person’s writing as well as the environment in which he or she worked. Students will do the following:

**Research paper**  Basic thesis: RAP book is effective vehicle for taking a careful and nuanced look at American culture. Your advisors will help you narrow your thesis if necessary.

- 4 to 6 pages (not including Works Cited/Works Consulted pages)
- You must have 8 to 10 sources. Please see next page for more information.
- You must take notes on Noodle Tools. Please see next page for more information.

Find more information on http://gallowayschool.libguides.com/rap

Due date: Friday, February 24  Send to Mrs. Klein by 8 am via FirstClass. Turn in hard copy of paper at the start of your English class on February 24. Please see next page for more information.

**Oral presentation**

- 5-minute presentation
- Following the presentation will be a 2-minute question and answer period.

Presentations will occur on the following days: Monday, February 27; Tuesday, February 28; Wednesday, February 29; and Thursday, March 1.
- Sign up on sheet posted by Mrs. Klein’s door.

**In-class personal essay**

- Date TBA

The grade you earn may benefit from evidence of your being totally enRAPtured by the RAP. Past RAPpers interviewed/emailed experts, went to museums, travelled to places associated with their book/author, watched movie versions, went to plays, attended lectures, wrote pieces in the style of their author, etc…….

You may come up with another way to show that you are wRAPped up with your RAP.
More information on the research paper

Note card piles:

Plot Summary and Book Info: Notes you take if you consult a reputable site to help you understand plot and/or character relationships. Good place to practice summary and paraphrase! If you did not consult sources for help with plot/characters, this pile will be empty!

Author Bio: As you research your author, look for information that connects your author to American life and culture—(state(s) lived in, schools attended, prizes, controversies, other areas of interest, etc.)

Historical Context: Look at publication date of your RAP book. Research events in American history ten years prior to publication of book. Look at events five years after publication. Look at years of your author’s life and research events that may have had an influence on your author.

Reviews of the Literary Work: Look at reviews by professionals written at time of your RAP book’s publication.

Public Reaction to the Work: Look at reaction by the public at time of publication and today. Consider your book’s place in the canon of American literature. Are schools/universities teaching your book? Has/is your book banned in some schools? Interview others about their experience with your book.

Literary Analysis: Determine literary period of your work. Make note of how your book fits in/differs from period’s general characteristics. Read analytical essays about topics that interest you.

Area of Personal Interest: Your choice!!!!

You must use 8 to 10 sources. Your RAP book counts as one source. You must use some sources from Bloom’s Literary Reference and Gale Virtual Reference Library. Have a variety of types of sources.

Deadlines:

Friday, Jan. 27
6 to 8 cards in Author Bio pile

Monday, Jan. 30
8 to 10 note cards in Historical Context pile
Start writing these sections.

Friday, Feb. 3
Complete reading/annotating RAP book. Add to piles.

Monday, Feb. 6
7 to 8 cards in Reviews of the Literary Work pile Add to piles.
7 to 8 cards in Public Reaction to the Work pile Add to piles.
Start writing these sections.

Friday, Feb. 10
6 to 8 cards in Literary Analysis pile Add to piles.
6 to 8 cards in Area of Personal Interest pile Add to piles.

Monday, Feb. 13 Research completed You should have a minimum of 40 note cards.

Friday, Feb. 17 rough draft of paper due

Friday, Feb. 24 final draft due Staple final copy on top of previous draft(s).

Use the piles to help you organize your paper. You must determine how to order the information in your paper. (What information logically connects with other information?) Your teachers will help you with organization.