

## Grade 12 Reflective Project

### Overview

Over three years at Joel Barlow High School, you have distinguished yourself as a reader of texts. From curricular texts, such as those read in your English classes, to out-of-school reading, including those books read over the summer, you've become acquainted with some rich stories, met some intriguing characters, and, hopefully, even broadened your world view.

As a rising senior interested in fulfilling the JBHS Reading Program, you are now asked to complete a project that synthesizes your reading thus far. Your project will have two components: (1) a written reflection / synthesis; (2) an oral defense and participation in a panel discussion.

#### Written Reflection / Synthesis

Your written reflection / synthesis should be completed over the summer. It will be due Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Your paper should accomplish two aims. First, it should provide a portrait of how you have developed as a reader over the past four years. Second, it should synthesize several of the texts you have read over the past four years. You may connect the texts in terms of literary devices, style, theme, or in another way of your choosing. However, a clearly discernible thread should guide your discussion. Both goals should help you distinguish yourself, as a reader, from others.

For your written document, be sure to select texts that show your development as a reader. For that reason, it would not be wise to pick texts from only one or two of your high school years. Also, at least one of the texts you discuss must come from the senior summer reading list.

Your product will be scored based on the Reading Rubric, and must achieve a score of at least "4 – Excellent." Notice that, for the "4" score, your reflective letter must demonstrate "advanced comprehension, thoughtful reflection, and growth in reading over time." If you complete the reflective letter to the "5 – Outstanding" level, and your average reading score from Grades 9-11 is a "4.5" or higher, then you will have completed the Reading Program with Honors, and you will be appropriately recognized.

Although your product will be scored based on the Reading Rubric, it is important that it meet high standards in terms of writing as well. Products that do not meet at least the "4 – Effective" level in writing on the JBHS Writing Rubric will not be accepted. In addition to bringing a hard copy of your document to the Writing Center by September 15, 2010, you must submit your document electronically to turnitin.com prior to September 15. Instructions are separately provided on the "Summer Reading" eBoard.

We will return to you your cumulative reading folder so that you may use the documents within it as you complete your integrative project.

Note: For students enrolled in Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, this project is replaced by the summer work for that course. Please see that separate course material for details.

#### Oral Project

When you return to school in the fall and have submitted your written product to the Writing Center staff, you will be scheduled to participate in the second part of your culminating reading project. Groups of students will be assembled to present their written reflections / syntheses and then to participate in panel discussions. Participation in this phase of the cumulative reading project is mandatory. Further details will be distributed in the fall.

