

HS323 – The Struggle for Equal Rights in America | 2024

Summer Assignment – Mrs. Armbruster

Summer Assignment Cover Sheet and DIRECTIONS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Due: The first day of Class. Please note that you must submit this assignment to Canvas.

Note: This is worth approximately half of a test grade! It is not hard . . . but does require your honest and thoughtful reflection! So, take the time to think!

(Email Mrs. Armbruster with any questions: sarmbruster@dcds.edu)

Directions: **NO BOOK IS NEEDED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. It's a thinking assignment.** Follow directions for each component – Part 1 and Part 2. Note: **You may NOT seek outside help from classmates, teachers, parents, internet, Artificial Intelligence (i.e. Chatgpt etc) etc.** This is to be done individually - that includes proofreading. **Everything should be typed. . . no hand writing.**

PLEASE PUT THE HONOR CODE STATEMENT ON YOUR WORK BEFORE SUBMITTING.

Honor Statement:

On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this work. I did this work myself.

Signed: _____

Introduction: What do you think of when you think about being an American? One of the unique things about our country is that it is one of tremendous diversity . . . diversity of experience, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, etc. This year, we will explore the American Experience from the late 19th Century through the 20th Century (late 1800s through the 1900s). As we move through our studies. . . we will explore how the American experience is different for different groups of people. This summer assignment is meant to be an introduction to this theme.

“I have spent my life judging the distance between American reality and the American dream.” Bruce Springsteen

(Mrs. A's note: I love this quote because it reminds me that Americans have this sense that there is a "Dream" . . . an idea of the perfection that America is supposed to be. Yet. . . that dream is not the reality for most Americans. This is really the main theme of our studies this year!)

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Part I: THIS PART IS NOT ABOUT YOUR LIFE SPECIFICALLY. . . but about your understanding of/views on the nation we live in.

1. In the U.S. we have an image of what it means to be American. Much of the time we think positive things. These are “dreamy” ideals that we actually think are pretty true!

What are 3 positive aspects of being an American? Think of these on your own and explain them on your own! Name it! Then, follow each with an explanation of what it is. . . and why you think it is positive for people in the U.S. Be specific (3-5 sent each)

2. We also know the reality of life in America is that there are areas where we fall short of our dreamy ideals.

The phrase “The Personal is Political” refers to the idea of connecting our personal experiences to political action. It suggests individual experiences that demonstrate inequality or limitations on our liberties can be addressed in the political realm. (For example. . . if I am a working class person that makes minimum wage - \$10.33 an hour - I might be motivated to fight for political changes to raise the minimum wage.)

The history of the United States is one where THE PERSONAL IS OFTEN THE IMPETUS FOR POLITICAL! (Note: Impetus means the force to make something happen.) This has been the case throughout our history (as we will study this year), and it is still the case today!

FIND 2 online news sources that are stories that demonstrate this idea of the “personal being political”. Sources should be from 2023 or 2024. Do the following for EACH:

1. **Tell which news source it is from & provide the full URL.**

(I will let you skip the MLA format for now:)

2. **Name what the PERSONAL element is (what is really happening to people or what is a real situation in people’s lives). . . and WHAT POLITICAL ELEMENT the people in the story are being activist about. (i.e. what are they trying to change politically/legally/socially?)**

3. **In 3-4 sentences. . . what rights do you think the people of this story believe need to improve in the U.S.? Explain. (This is the root of the issue. . . what are they discontented about? Tie it to rights!)**

4. **Also, what is your opinion about this? Explain in 5-7 sentences and use a few details from the article to support your thoughts. (Note: In this class. . . never hesitate to be thoughtful and really think about what you think! Often. . . we don’t know right away and part of expressing ourselves is exploring that uncertainty and finding words to articulate where we are at with our thinking right in that moment. Your opinion is never part of the grade! Being thoughtful and doing your best to articulate your thoughts is.)**

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Part II: THIS PART IS ABOUT YOU PERSONALLY! "Me as an American" – Diary Entry

Write a sort of informal "Diary Entry" that tells me about YOUR life and what YOUR American Experience looks like. When you think of yourself as "an American". . . what does that mean to you? Be sure to offer very specific aspects/examples from your personal life. Can include Positives and Negatives! Be sure to hit upon at least 4-6 aspects of your own experience/history. (Note . . . you do not need to be an American citizen . . . or even have lived here very long to be able to do this!)

Note: Typed. (double space, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman or Calibri 12 pt. font, may use 1st person) 2 pages. Please contain yourself! Do not go beyond 2 ½ pages. Do not organize this as a formal essay. . . but don't be random and disorganized either! Check spelling and grammar!