

ENGLISH 11  
UNIT LIST

ENGLISH 11 FOCUS—STRONG, EVIDENCE-BASED ARGUMENT WRITING REVOLVING  
AROUND THE AMERICAN DREAM

UNIT 1—Argument Essays and Rhetoric

- I. Argument Essay 1—Position Paper, no citation needed, 3-4 pages
  - a. Sample Prompt: Is the American Dream achievable?
- II. Rhetorical Pillars Overview—Logos, Ethos, Pathos
  - a. Introduce the three pillars of rhetoric
    - 1. Logos (Logic)
    - 2. Ethos (Authority—studies, statistics, interviews with experts, etc)
    - 3. Pathos (Appeal to Emotion)
  - b. Practice identifying the pillars of rhetoric
    - 1. Op-Eds
    - 2. Speeches (Nixon’s Cambodia Speech, Kerry’s Cambodia testimony)
  - c. Rhetoric Identification and analysis assessment
- III. Argument Essay 2— Position Paper with Optional Topics (Minor Assessment)
  - OPTION 1: Research Based
    - a. Narrow original prompt. Example: Is the American Dream achievable for minorities/the poorly educated/those with health issues?
    - b. Full citation including Works Cited page, APA Format
  - OPTION 2: Literary Analysis of a work focused on the American Dream
    - a. Short stories, plays—*A Raisin in the Sun*, *Death of a Salesman*, etc.
    - b. Full citation including Works Cited Page, MLA Format
  - OPTION 3: Personal piece; write for contests (VFW’s VOD, Boys and Girls Clubs of Wyoming, JFK Profiles in Courage)
    - a. Citations as necessary

UNIT 2—Genre Study

- I. Several short stories and articles exploring common theme “the other” or “isolation”
  - a. Examples: “I am the Doorway,” “Computer Friendly,” “Supertoys Last All Summer Long,” “Useful Phrases,” etc.
  - b. Minor/formative assessments

UNIT 3—Comparative Literary Analysis

- I. Two longform works at grade level
  - a. Examples—Two war novels, two Shakespeare plays, a play and a novel, etc.
  - b. Regular minor assessments (quizzes, notes, short papers, retellings, etc.)

- II. Comparative essays (Common Assessment)
  - a. Compare/contrast elements within the two works—characterization of events, themes, metaphor, etc.
  - b. Regular checks for thesis statements, outlines, rough drafts, peer editing, etc.

#### UNIT 4—Speeches

- I. Speech 1—Introductory (Descriptive), 1-2 minutes (Minor Assessment)
  - a. Introduce a fellow class member OR Introduce a product
    - 1. Main goal is to ‘sell’ the person or product
      - a) Positive Tribute
      - b) Must include specific details about the product; can include speculative but believable non-fiction details
      - c) Form: Commercial, Sales Pitch, Infomercial, etc.
  - b. Review methods of public speaking (Poise, eye contact, voice, pace, etc)
- II. Speech 2—How-To (Demonstration), 3-5 minutes (Minor Assessment)
  - a. Must take audience through several steps of a process, either abstract or concrete.
  - b. Visual Aid must be used (props, slides, photos, etc.)
- III. Speech 3—Argumentative, 5-10 minutes (Common Assessment)
  - a. Must take a position on something connected to the American Dream.
    - 1. Conscientious organization (critical, interesting thesis; clear, logical reasoning; counterclaim fully addressed)
  - b. Sample Position: The United States is/is no longer a meritocracy, but an oligarchy in all but name.
  - c. Must take the form of a presentation (slides, charts, statistics, etc.)
  - d. Must turn in a bibliography in the proper format (APA or MLA, depending on subject matter)
  - e. Must use the three pillars of rhetoric.
  - f. Serious or humorous, but must be persuasive

**END OF SCHOOL YEAR**