College & Career Communications IV  
Second Quarter Project  
Examining Adolescent Issues through Young Adult Literature:  
An Overview

1. Task Definition

Literature is a powerful means of communication. Reading books provides a means of experiencing life without any of the "first-hand" pain. Young adult books offer their audience an opportunity to read about characters like themselves, to empathize with those characters, and to "observe" as they find solutions to the problems they face.

Your task is to answer the following essential question: How is adolescent literature an engaging way to convey practical, significant information to its audience? Building on your knowledge of fiction and nonfiction, you will discover the many uses of reading, identify and explain the central issue(s) and their relevance to today's teenagers, and determine the difference between literary value and personal preference.

You determine the elements of this project using the matrix provided. Mini lessons related to each piece of the project will be provided. All students must participate in small group presentations.

The Standards

While working on this unit, the following Common Core State Standards & National Educational Technology Standards will be addressed.

CCSS
- RL. 11-12.1  
- RL. 11-12.3  
- RI. 11-12.6  
- RI. 11-12.7  
- W. 11-12.4  
- W. 11-12.5  
- W. 11-12.6  
- W. 11-12.7  
- W. 11-12.8  
- W. 11-12.9  
- SL. 11-12.1  
- SL. 11-12.4  
- SL. 11-12.5  
- L. 11-12.1  
- L. 11-12.2

NETS-S

1. Creativity and Innovation- Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.

2. Communication and Collaboration- Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.

3. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making- Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
Research Areas
The research necessary for this project relates to the issue(s) the characters in your book face. Students are expected to demonstrate their understanding of the issue in a variety of ways. Each student must complete an oral, visual, and written component to meet the requirements of the project.

Time Frame
See your course calendar for specific due dates for all elements of the project.

2. Information-Seeking Strategies
Find information in print and nonprint sources. Select the ones that might work best for your topic.

3. Location and Access
   a. Ocean State Libraries (OSL)
   b. Gale Group
   c. HELIN
   d. RICAT (OPAC)
   e. Fiction books from school & public libraries
   f. Research materials from school, public libraries, and the Internet

4. Use of Information
   The attached matrix describes the options. A separate handout explains the expectations of each of the options.

5. Synthesis
   a. Completion of a KWL chart about the research area
   b. Submission of a Resource List created in Destiny or Destiny Quest
   c. Submission of “Project Choices” sheet
   d. Completion of reflections for each project choice
   e. Production of the written/electronic components
   f. An oral presentation
   g. A final reflection

6. Evaluation
The following elements of the project will be evaluated.
   a. The Process: Were the assignments/components complete? Were all due dates met?
   b. The oral/written/electronic components of the Project
   c. The Reflection
The process, book reviews, and minor component of the project represent 70% of your second quarter grade. The portfolios represent the other 30%. The major component, completed learning log, and reflection represent your exam grade.

Rubrics will be provided for all components.
S. Webster
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